

HOME NEWS

TUC refuses to make nominations to new NEB and endorses regional boards withdrawal

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The TUC is to undertake a wide-ranging review of its tripartite consultative links with the Government and the CBI in the wake of the National Enterprise Board resignations affair.

Union leaders will make a "very vigorous" protest next Wednesday at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council over Sir Keith Joseph's handling of the future of Rolls-Royce.

After refusing the minister's request to make nominations to new NEB, the TUC General Council yesterday endorsed the decision of its "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, to withdraw union nominees from the north-west and north-east regional boards.

There is some pressure for the unions to go further and pull out of the NEDC, its 39 sector working parties and other joint bodies on which the TUC is represented. But Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, made clear that there would be no precipitate move in that direction.

He said after yesterday's general council meeting that the unions would "pursue very vigorously" their view about the NEB at the talks next week with ministers and the CBI. The

TUC's influential economic committee will then review the situation on December 12.

But it is unlikely that the arguments for withdrawal from the consultative machinery will win the day. Union leaders point to reports already in train from the sector working parties and the useful information-gathering role they fulfil.

They will be particularly reluctant to give up their seats on the Manpower Services Commission, which oversees employment policies and government grants for job creation.

"There is always a debate about whether we are getting as much out of these joint bodies as we would like," Mr Murray said. "But we look at developments over a period. What we have sought within the industrial strategy has been to get more involvement of trade unionists at the workplace in decisions made there."

"This is the way we will test the usefulness of bodies such as this. If we find that in nine or twelve months that it is not working, then that is a different scenario. It was the TUC's long-term aim to restore the NEB as a strong and thrusting body, when circumstances permit."

The TUC general secretary justified the unions' refusal to serve on the new NEB board by arguing that Sir Keith had

"very clear prior warning" that the withdrawal of Rolls-Royce from the state holding company's portfolio would be regarded as a vote of no confidence. Resignation had been forced on them by the Industry Secretary's decision to go ahead with the severance.

Mr Murray also dismissed recent industrial arguments that big pay settlements were forcing up inflation. "What we are clear about is that attempts being made to ascribe all the misfortunes of the economy to developments in pay are designed to mislead and obscure the real causes."

"The real causes lie in the Budget and the Government policies that have succeeded it. But we are not surprised by the Government trying to use the unions as a scapegoat. That is nothing new in our experience."

In talks with Mr James Prior, the Employment Secretary, today, the TUC's employment, policy and organisation committee will express "total opposition" to the Government's industrial relations legislative proposals.

Union leaders have been called to a conference at Congress House on January 22 to discuss plans for a campaign against the new laws. The Bill is to be published in about a week.

Ministers attack 'mindless' marchers

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Ministers responsible for local authority spending yesterday joined in criticism of the protest against cuts in Government expenditure.

Mr Tom King, Minister of State for Local Government and Environmental Services, complained of the "mindless militancy" of the marchers in the protest.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, viewed the protest as seriously that he issued a statement. "Let us be clear what today's march is about. It is no mainline, levels of public expenditure we cannot afford. It is to avoid the consequences of last winter's pay settlements. It is to support an explosion in the rate of inflation."

"It is a bludge for those who imposed such suffering last winter to march now in alleged support for the very people upon whom they imposed that suffering."

Mr King, addressing an Institute of Management Services conference in London, acknowledged that among the protesters were genuinely concerned, frightened, people who saw in the uncertain times ahead the need to band together to protect themselves from the cold wind of economy.

There were also politically motivated, deliberately provocative people. "Positive proposals are not found by marching in the streets. I accept that what we are asking for will cause some real problems for local authorities."

But solutions do not lie in protests which "ignore the country's difficulties. They lie in a constructive approach and in sensible action. Showing us no way to give the public a fair deal. A constructive approach, not a mindless march; that is what we need."

Mr King argued that there was real scope for savings in the cost of local government, mainly by natural wastage of staff.

The Department of the Environment is beginning to drum home the message that by filling only three out of four vacancies the savings can be met. Added emphasis came yesterday with the detailed figures of local authority manpower, which showed an increase of 30,000 staff between June, 1978, and June, 1979.

Local government's argument, that the increase was due to greater responsibilities imposed by central government, had a point, Mr King agreed.

The minister hoped there would be more flexibility among staff. "If we do not get flexibility the cuts will be worse. If teachers are not prepared to be moved around or redeployed to take account of teacher-pupil ratios, for example, schools will suffer, and it could mean the end for some village schools."



Mr Eric Heffer at Central Hall yesterday.

Anarchists in brawl at Labour rally

By Craig Seton

More than 50,000 people took part in a Labour Party rally in London yesterday to oppose the Government's spending cuts. A large meeting at the end of the day, attended by Mr James Callaghan, the Leader of the Opposition, was disrupted by a violent brawl involving anarchists.

Mr Callaghan watched grimly from the platform at the Central Hall as stewards tried to eject the few anarchists and punk rockers who had earlier heckled a number of Labour and union speakers.

A fight broke out at the rear of the hall, which held 2,000 people, and continued for several minutes before the hecklers marched out to police arrival. No arrests were made.

Mr Callaghan, who had been greeted by a mixture of boos and cheers, was heckled by members of extreme left-wing groups throughout his speech,

in which he condemned the Government's "detestable" cuts, particularly those affecting the health and social services.

The rally, which started in Hyde Park, was thought to be the biggest organised by the Labour Party since the hectic days of the previous Conservative Government. It was intended to show that the party had got over its election defeat and was opposing the Government with renewed vigour.

The organisers had expected 40,000 people but Scottish Yards estimated that 53,000 people had taken part.

The banner-waving marchers included Labour supporters from all over Britain and thousands of trade unionists, led by miners' brass bands. Members of the Shadow Cabinet and the National Executive Committee and union leaders were at the head of the march. Blindfolded other handicapped people took part.

The route from Hyde Park to the Central Hall was lined by thousands of policemen.

The march was preceded by a rally addressed by several leading Labour MPs who called for a big effort to replace the Conservative Government.

Vote for union plan would close Linwood

From Ronald Faux
Car workers at the Talbot plant at Linwood, Scotland, will decide today whether to take industrial action when the first of 1,250 redundancies are enforced at the factory next month.

The 6,500 hourly-paid workers at Linwood, now owned by Peugeot Citroën of France, meet under a warning from management that the plant could close permanently if the mass meeting decides on any form of industrial action.

In a private letter delivered to the homes of each of the workers, Mr Sander Deason, manufacturing director at Linwood, said it was understood that the joint shop stewards' recommendation would be for the workers to reject the company's recovery plan, which ends the night shift.

The letter said that if this development it is a duty to inform you that a vote by our employees in favour of the joint shop stewards' recommendation will result in an early decision being taken on whether or not to continue the Linwood manufacturing operation.

The shop stewards' alternative of a working-sharing scheme and a cut in overtime to management pay would be so

costly and inefficient that would be impossible for wood to pay its way. That we immediately put the plant down.

Closure would be a cruel blow to the west of Scotland where construction in the engineering in recent years had been severe.

It would also endanger some of the 14,000 jobs at the factories in England. The St engine and gearbox plant, which supplies the Scottish car would be particularly vulnerable.

Mr John Carty, convenor of the shop stewards at Linwood, yesterday said that the vote would be asked to vote for union alternative. He was tried about the future of wood but the stewards retained the possible consequences of the gamble they were taking.

He did not think the shop stewards would be their minds because of company's warning, which said had been heavy-handed Ford workers accept. Union leaders yesterday set out the company's plan that workers at the 24 plants had all voted to accept a pay offer giving increase 5.90% hourly paid employees averaging 21.5 per cent and promise of nationalised on a reduction in working

Clash shuts citizens' aid bureau

By David Nicholson-Lord

A citizens' aid bureau at Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, has been closed this week after a year-long controversy over the running of its affairs, culminating in the resignation of its officers and the refusal of further grant aid by local councils.

The closure came after its expulsion last week from membership of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (NACAB) on the grounds of continued mismanagement. NACAB, which is the registering and supervisory body for 850 bureaux in the country, last night described the step as "very exceptional".

The dispute began over a year ago when a report from a NACAB inspector found that it was failing to meet about 10 of the 35 conditions for membership.

Mr Leslie Collins, NACAB's West Midlands area officer, said a decision to withdraw membership was taken in June but deferred to give the bureau more time to "get things right". Some improvement occurred, but three conditions were still not being met. These, he said, were lack of an organizer, inadequate staff training and non-attendance at NACAB meetings.

Miners expect new pay talks after ballot

By Our Labour Editor

The National Coal Board has been given a hint that miners' leaders will expect an early resumption of negotiations on the assumption that tomorrow's secret ballot will support union rejection of the "final" 20 per cent wage offer.

With only a few areas opposing the recommendation of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive committee, it is thought almost certain that the men will give their leaders the 55 per cent majority required to call a national strike "if necessary" to win an improved offer.

The closing stages of the ballot campaign were yesterday marked by fresh propaganda initiatives from both sides. Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the NCB, predicted that a settlement of 25 per cent already declared acceptable by NUM leaders would put 15,000 jobs at risk over a period of years because the steel and electricity industries would turn to imported coal.

In Yorkshire, the biggest coalfield where the votes of 65,000 men may determine the outcome, miners were urged in a special edition of their local union paper not to settle for "less than the price of a decent pair of shoes".

Area NUM leaders calculate that the £12.30 to £17 a week increase proposed by the coal board will come out at only £8 to £11 after tax, and most of that will be swallowed up by higher prices for mortgages and national insurance contributions.

It is an interesting sidelight on the miners' position in the wages league that calculations of the impact of the 15 per cent mortgage rate should figure so prominently in union propaganda. Many more miners can now afford to buy their houses.

Sir Derek disclosed on BBC Radio programme, today, that a 25 per cent increase in basic rates would create "very serious market difficulties" for the industry's two biggest customers, steel and electricity generation.

They would start coal imports on a substantial scale. "There would be 15,000 jobs at risk over a period of years because we just could not sell the coal," he added. Jobs would be lost in the seasonal coalfields: Scotland, South Wales, Durham and Northumberland, and Kent.

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the NUM, discounted the board's view that £50m of business was at risk. "I do not accept the figures at all," he said.

Provincial Building Society Notice to Investing members and existing and prospective borrowing members.

Provincial announce new interest rates.

New Investment Rates from 1st December 1979

Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice to investing members that the rates of interest paid in all departments will be increased by 1.75% per annum with effect from 1st December 1979. The differentials on existing Term Shares will remain unaltered. On and after this date new investment monies will be accepted at the following rates:

	Interest rate (basic rate 10.50%)	Gross equivalent	Grossed percentage above the variable Fund-Up Share
Fund-Up Shares	10.50%	12.00%	
Regular Savings Shares	11.75%	13.75%	
High Yield Shares (current issue)			
2 Year Term	11.00%	13.75%	0.50%
3 Year Term	11.30%	14.45%	1.00%
4 Year Term	11.60%	15.15%	1.50%
5 Year Term	11.90%	15.85%	2.00%
Monthly Income Shares (current issue)			
1 Month's notice	10.30%	12.00%	
2 Year Term	11.00%	13.71%	0.50%
3 Year Term	11.30%	14.47%	1.00%
4 Year Term	11.60%	15.23%	1.50%
5 Year Term	11.90%	15.99%	2.00%
Holiday Savings Account	11.00%	13.75%	
Ordinary Deposits	10.25%	13.61%	

Increased Mortgage Rates

Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice that the rate of interest applicable to outstanding offers of mortgage is to be increased by 3.25% with effect from 1st December 1979. This notice cancels the previous notice which specified an increase of 0.75%.

Notice is also given that the rate of interest applicable to the Society's various classes of mort-

gage accounts is to be increased by 2.50% with effect from 1st January 1980. The increase specified in this notice is in addition to the increase of 0.75% previously advertised and effective from 1st January 1980.

Where a mortgage deed specifies a period of notice before an increase is effective that period will commence on 1st December 1979.

The new rate of interest and revised repayment figure applicable to an existing mortgage will be notified in each borrower's annual statement of account.

Where an offer of advance has not been taken up by 1st December 1979 the new rate of interest and revised repayment figure will be quoted in the statement sent to each borrower after completion.

Any prospective borrower requiring information relating to the effect of this notice prior to completion should contact the Branch of the Society which issued the offer of advance or the Society at its Head Office.

In Option Mortgage cases the appropriate subsidy will apply.

PROVINCIAL

PROVINCIAL BUILDING SOCIETY

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Acas helps with hospital's peace negotiation

By Alan Hamilton

The difficulties at Charing Cross Hospital, west London, beleaguered by pickets and critically short of heating oil earlier this week, eased further yesterday. More oil reached the hospital and management and full-time union officials began peace negotiations under the aegis of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Doctors and nurses, who had taken control of the gates, had a picket line of striking maintenance engineers on Tuesday morning, abandoned their demonstration yesterday afternoon after receiving assurances that the engineers would not return to impede the delivery of essential supplies.

793 beds, half of them empty since the dispute began three weeks ago, had at least enough heating oil to last until Sunday and had restored the heat to ancillary buildings, including the nurses' home.

The hospital's administrators are still wary of taking new admissions until the strike is over. Although they have withdrawn their picket, the 45 strikers have said they will continue their action for the time being.

The conflict walked out on an unofficial strike on October 23 after the dismissal of two of their colleagues for refusing to carry out maintenance work in an operating theatre.

Their unions, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, have since been trying without success to persuade the men to return to work.

The unusual action of the medical staff in taking over the picket lines to keep supplies flowing has received the approval of the British Medical Association.

A BMA official said yesterday: "If doctors are faced with a similar situation in future they are likely to do the same thing again. The BMA supports doctors and nurses in what they have done. Their first duty is to their patients." Similar approval was voiced by the Royal College of Nursing.

Maintenance engineers belonging to the EETPU have received a letter from their union warning them of possible disciplinary action or dismissal from the union unless they obey instructions to return to work.

The strike is the culmination of a lengthy dispute among maintenance men at the hospital, which began with a work-to-rule in January.

Graduate teachers find jobs

By Our Education Correspondent

Employment prospects for university-trained teachers remain bright despite the economic uncertainties and difficulties faced by the profession. A survey carried out by the University Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) shows that 4,729 PGCE graduates decided to take jobs outside teaching. Two thirds of those went into industry or commerce.

Just 1,700 had obtained teaching posts in the United Kingdom by mid-October.

Of the 198 PGCE students who were studying the first year last month, 26 were scientists, eight were mathematicians and 24 were modern languages, all areas in which there is an acute shortage.

Nearly 200 of this year's 4,729 PGCE graduates decided to take jobs outside teaching. Two thirds of those went into industry or commerce.

The PGCE course at universities

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Weather forecast and recordings

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Old favourite saves the show

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HOME NEWS

Arts Council advisory subcommittees to be cut in reorganization

By Martin Huckerby
Arts Reporter

The Arts Council yesterday decided to abolish nearly two thirds of its advisory subcommittees as part of a reorganization aimed at increasing efficiency and saving money.

In a move that seems certain to be criticized by those who feel they are losing a voice in the council's decisions, it was agreed to "streamline" the operations of the council, cutting the subcommittees of 10 of the council's main advisory panels from 21 to seven.

As a result the number of outsiders on council committees, most of whom are experts in particular fields or representatives of arts organizations, will be reduced by about half.

The work of the subcommittees will be taken over by the main panels, but necessarily much of the preliminary work, such as the sifting of applications for grants, will have to be done by the council's officials, thus giving them more control than at present.

Sir Roy Shaw, the council's secretary-general, said yesterday that the decisions implemented the recommendations of a working party set up in 1978. Many other changes have been agreed and they will be made public when the working party's report is available next month.

The composition of the main panels will be altered to ensure that the subjects covered

by the subcommittees are represented, but the size of the main panels will also be reduced, so that may not be easy. Some details of the report were leaked to the magazine, Time Out, which publishes them today and refers to "distinctly undemocratic recommendations". Many critics of the council have called for a more democratic structure and the changes are unlikely to meet their approval.

However, Sir Roy said: "The essence of the operation is to reverse the natural tendency of committees to grow bigger and to proliferate subcommittees." He pointed out that in the past decade the grant administered by the council had increased seven-fold; its staff had increased by only half, but the number of panel and committee members had gone up by 150 per cent.

He said the simplified structure ought to lead to "increasing efficiency, tighter organization and much-needed financial economies at the outset of what is bound to be a difficult year."

The council has not quite completed its consideration of the committee structure. The working party that produced the report was asked to review the relationship between the council, its advisers and its senior officers, and particularly the current requirements for assessment, policy-making and servicing the council, the panels and committees.

Agricultural research to lose 300 jobs

By Our Agricultural
Correspondent

Three hundred jobs in the Government's agricultural research service are to be lost because of cuts in public spending, Dr Ralph Riley, secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, said in London yesterday. "We hope to achieve this without compulsory redundancies," he said.

That represents a cut of 6 per cent and will be spread over 22 research stations financed wholly or partly by the council. The council's budget was to be cut by £1.8m or 61 per cent in real terms, equal to the cost of running one station for a year.

Dr Riley said: "We are not intending to close any institutes, but to reduce specific activities in them." Recruitment would cease except for

jobs connected with safety or those essential for the survival of research. There will be fewer jobs for those entering the scientific professions.

Most of the council's cash came from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for work done under contract. Funds had not increased to cover increases in fuel costs and in value added tax.

The council intended to maintain the value of its payments for projects done at universities. Some were not expected to produce results for several years and could not be stopped halfway.

"The cost of running the council's research programmes has increased by more than £2m beyond those expected when the cash limit was set for its expenditure," Dr Riley said.

RAF 'needs more fighters and quickly'

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The RAF needs more fighters, and it needs them quickly, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, said yesterday. "But even if it had the money, no suitable new aircraft were available, and given the recent manpower crisis it would be difficult to find the pilots."

He confirmed the RAF's stopgap measures to act a number of Hawk fighter aircraft with Sidewinder missiles and to bring into service an extra squadron of Lightnings—still a very useful fighter.

In the medium term the Air Staff proposed to run on the present Phantoms for longer than originally intended, and in the long-term to obtain an additional three fighter squadrons.

That is understood to mean an increased order for the Tornado air defence variant which, Sir Michael said, is already showing signs of fulfilling RAF expectations of a first-class aircraft.

Meanwhile the Tornado strike variant was rolling off the production line, and instructors were due to start work on it next year in preparation for the opening of a joint Anglo-Italian training base at RAF Cosmo.

Sir Michael, speaking to the Air Public Relations Association, also referred to the successful formation of three reserve RAF Regiment squadrons for the security of RAF airfields at Lossiemouth, Scampton and Honington.

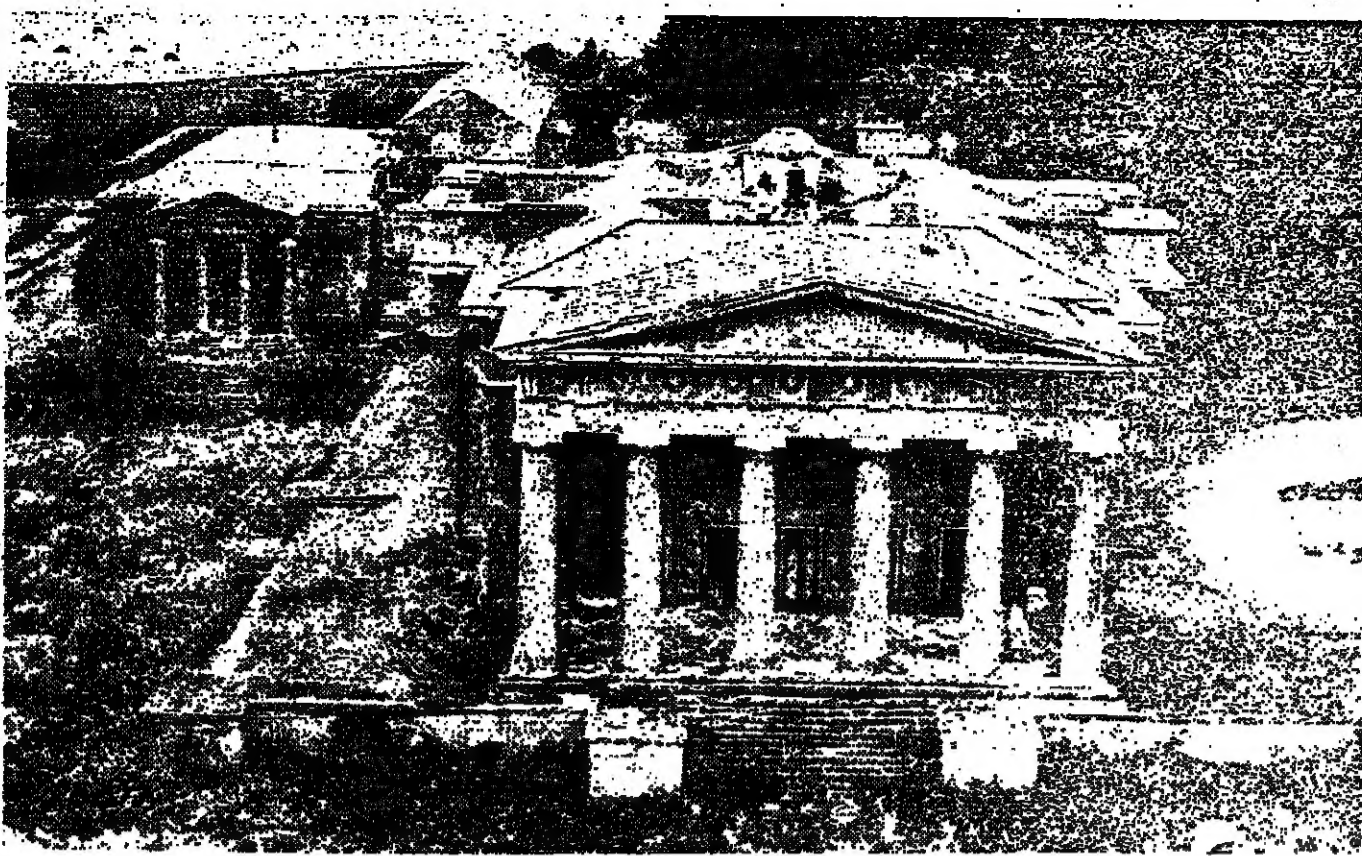
That had provided encouragement to expand the scheme and to make greater use of resources and auxiliaries. It is understood that the RAF is considering forming reserve squadrons with Rapier anti-aircraft missiles.

Sir Michael also reported a "significant progress" in resolving the RAF's manpower crisis in the past few years. The Government's attitude to defence had had a heartening effect on morale, and the tide of men leaving the service was beginning to slacken.

Recruiting was buoyant, too, although the national demand for qualified engineers had been reflected in the RAF.

New look for theatre

Redevelopment of the Theatre Royal, Winchester, will begin next spring, it was announced yesterday. The initial work will provide a new entrance and foyer, cloakrooms, a restaurant and offices.



Save The Grange: Those interested in the future of The Grange, Northampton, Hampshire, have until tomorrow to submit their views to the Department of the Environment.

The huge neoclassical mansion was saved from demolition in 1972, largely because of a telegram from the Council of Europe to Mr Edward

Heath, then Prime Minister, appealing for a reprieve for what it described as one of Europe's great monuments (Our Planning Reporter writes).

In 1974 it passed into the guardianship of the department, which has since put forward four options; to repair it at an estimated cost of £500,000; to stabilize the portico and

supporting walls and demolish the rest, which it is thought would cost about £250,000; to leave it to decay; or to demolish it completely.

Many conservationists, including Save Britain's Heritage, are campaigning for the first option, and claim that the department's estimates are inflated.

Changes urged in mobility allowance rules

By Our Social Services
Correspondent

The Government is being asked to change the mobility allowance rules after disclosures in *The Times* that children suffering from Down's Syndrome are being refused the allowance.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, wants the criteria changed to allow all children unable to use public transport to become eligible automatically.

Mr Ashley said yesterday that it was deplorable that Down's Syndrome children were still being refused the allowance despite new regulations introduced this year. Those regulations were intended to remove confusion about the eligibility of such children; a test case had established that those with walking difficulties should be entitled to the allowance.

Mr Ashley yesterday wrote to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, asking for a change to the rules.

Action stepped up in BBC dispute

By Ian Bradley

The industrial action which is stopping the production of BBC television programmes in London and severely curtailing television and radio production in five regional centres intensified yesterday.

Sound recordists at the BBC's film studios in Ealing, west London, and sound technicians working on Open University programmes at Alexandra Palace, north London, stopped work.

The dispute, which involves members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, is over the introduction of a new grading scheme. News bulletins are now the only programmes being produced in the BBC's studios.

The corporation and most of the unions representing its employees generally agree that the grading scheme, which is 20 years old, is on the verge of collapse. It was drawn up at a time when there was virtually no inflation and before the days of government incomes policies.

In the last few years the system has been used by unions

as a device to get round successive incomes policies and to make leapfrogging claims. Each successful claim had a significant "knock-on" effect. As a result, there are now more than 1,000 regrading claims in the pipeline, which would take the grading department, with a staff of 30, at least two years to work through.

At present BBC staff are divided into five main grades: managerial, production and editorial (MP, with 7,174 staff), operational (OP—7,125), administrative and supervisory (AS—1,647), clerical (CO—564) and secretarial (SC—5,132). There are also casual and weekly staff.

There are eight divisions within each grade, together with special award provisions, annual increment scales and earnings roofs.

Last month the BBC put forward detailed proposals for a simpler and more flexible grading system which would set up five broad structural bands with salary ranges.

Departmental heads would be allowed greater flexibility in making merit awards. Market

forces, particularly rates of pay in independent television, would be given more importance.

On November 2 Mr Michael et al. the BBC's director of personnel, told ABS the main BBC staff union, that because the grading department would be fully engaged in working out the new system outstanding regrading claims would be frozen for three months until the new system was implemented.

It is that freeze on outstanding claims, which applies only to the 16,000 staff in the MP, OP and AS grades, that has provoked the dispute.

The 540 staff who have been taken off the payroll for taking part in industrial action are nearly all sound technicians and members of technical operations crews who were top of the list of those who had claims coming up for consideration.

Mr Anthony Munn, general secretary of the ABS, said yesterday that within the last 12 months there had been reviews of the grades of certified engineers and cameramen.

NUT forces selection plans to be postponed

By Our Education
Correspondent

Bolton council agreed yesterday to postpone plans to introduce more selection into its secondary schools after a successful application to the High Court by the National Union of Teachers.

Secondary school pupils in one half of the borough now attend comprehensive schools, and in the other half they are selected for grammar and secondary modern schools.

The nine remaining grammar schools were due to go comprehensive last September, but were reprieved when the Conservative Government changed the law on comprehensive reorganization.

Under the new proposals, agreed by the council on October 31, the three 11-16 secondary modern schools and one grammar school in the Farnworth district of Bolton were to be changed into three "bilateral" schools in which pupils would be separated into 11-16 and 11-18 streams according to their ability.

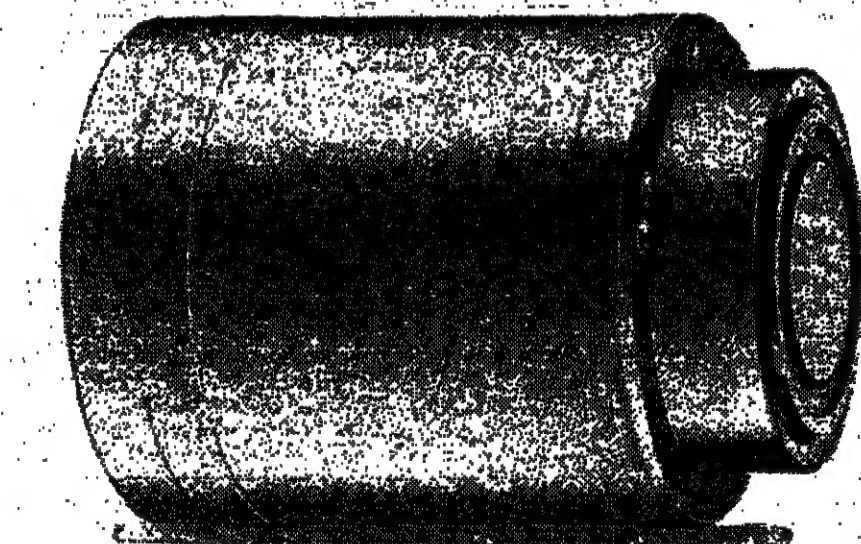
That, in effect, would double the grammar school provision in Farnworth. The local branch of the National Union of Teachers protested that it had not been consulted, as required by the law, and declared a collective dispute with the authority. The council nevertheless went ahead and published Section 13 notices to change the schools.

On Monday the High Court granted the NUT leave to apply for a judicial review of the council's conduct. The union immediately wrote to Bolton's chief education officer requesting the council to take no further action on its reorganization plans until the review had taken place; otherwise the union would apply for an injunction, it said.

Before that letter was received, however, the Bolton education committee took a decision at its meeting yesterday to acknowledge officially the NUT dispute, and to consult with all teacher associations before taking any further steps to implement its plans.

New flag officer

Vice-Admiral Thomas Baird took over yesterday as the new Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland at Rnysyth. His predecessor, Vice-Admiral Sir Camernon Rusby, has been appointed Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic at Norfolk, United States.



It'll guide a tank at night or spot a badger.

The lens-like object pictured above is a product of over 50 years of image tube technology that's making even the Americans envious.

It's an image intensifier that lets you see, no matter how little light there is—even starlight will do.

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But that's not all that Mullard

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There are infra-red detectors that are highly sensitive to temperature differences.

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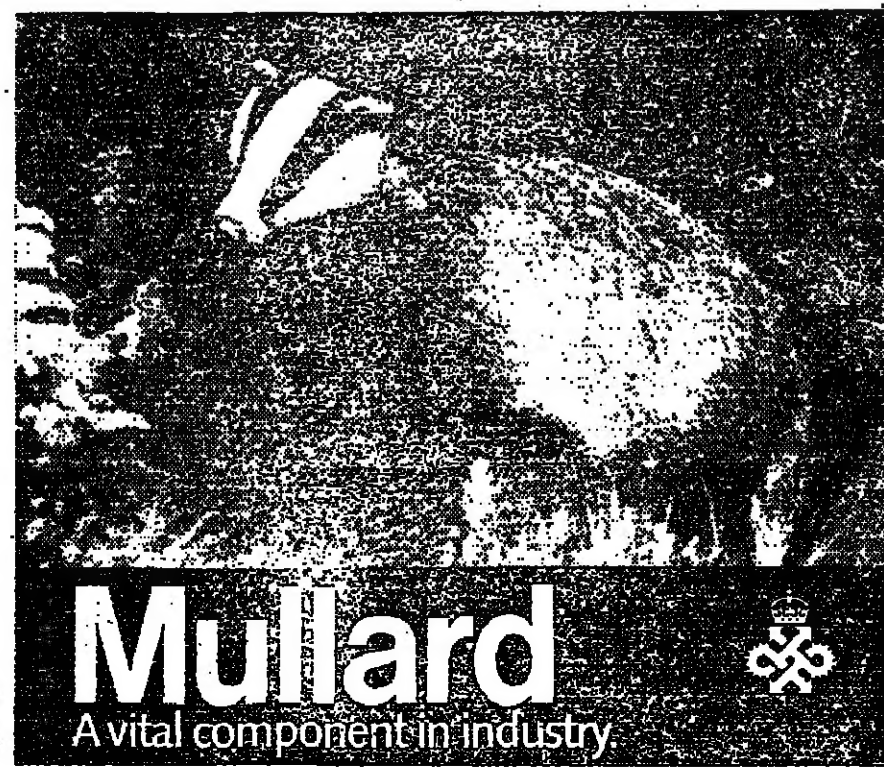
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الجمهورية العربية الليبية

Our Welcome to the JAMAHIRIYA*

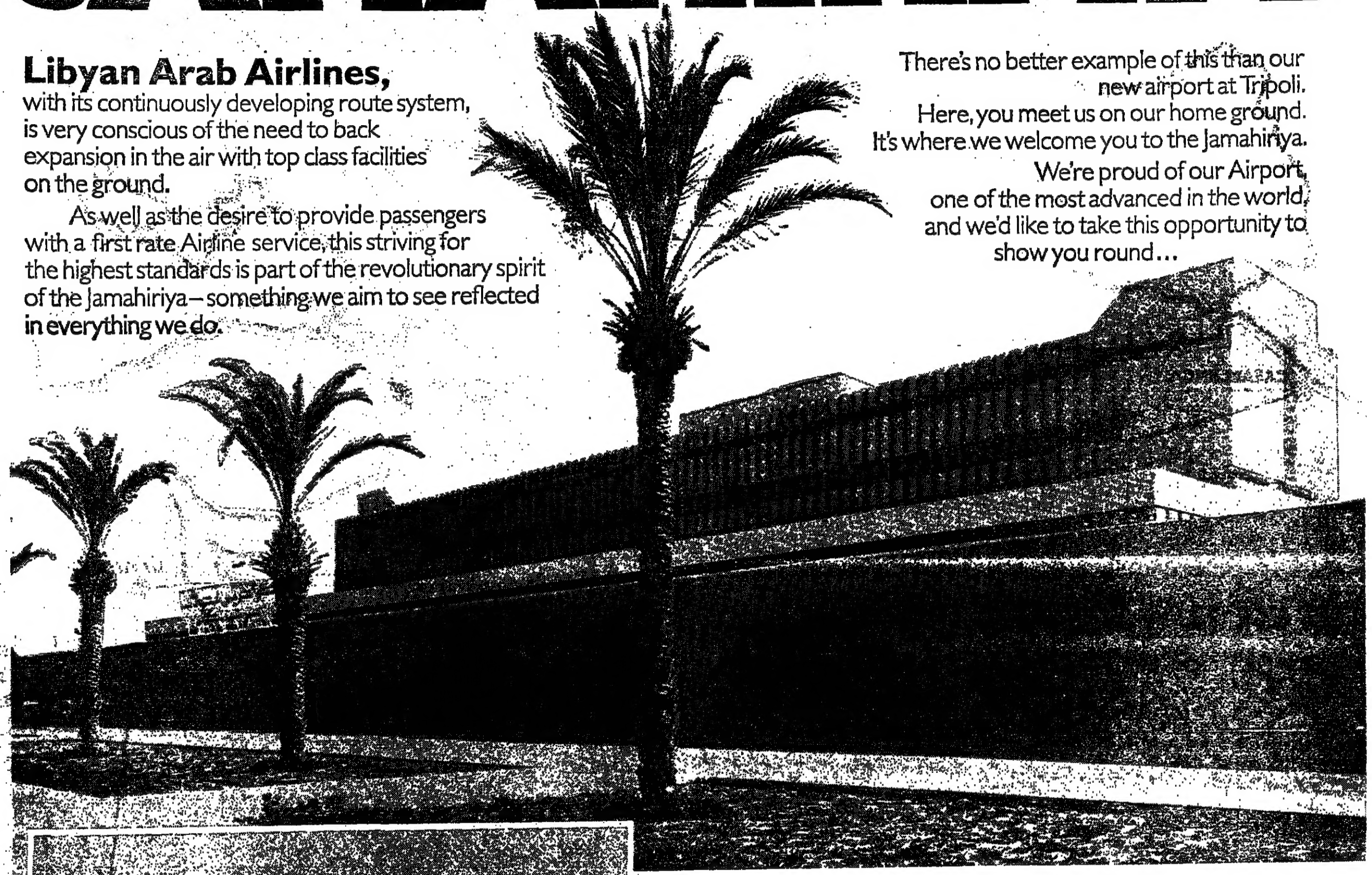
Libyan Arab Airlines,

with its continuously developing route system, is very conscious of the need to back expansion in the air with top class facilities on the ground.

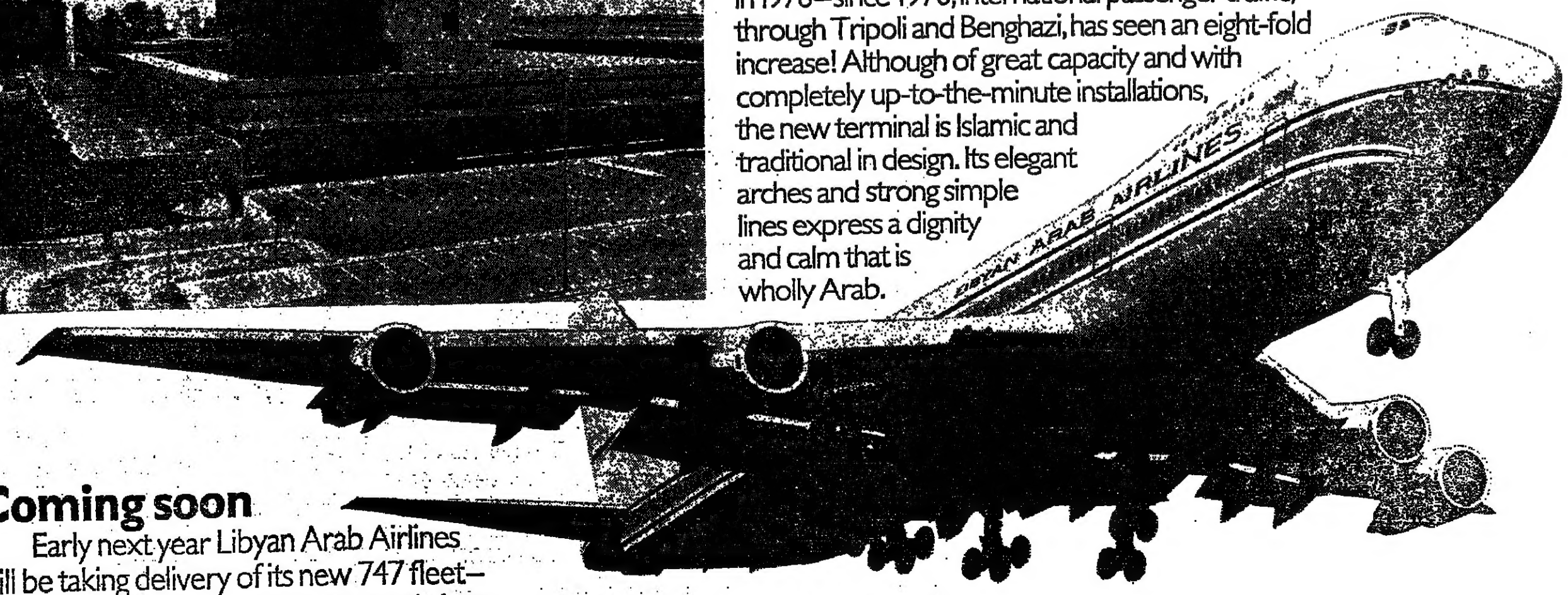
As well as the desire to provide passengers with a first rate Airline service, this striving for the highest standards is part of the revolutionary spirit of the Jamahiriya—something we aim to see reflected in everything we do.

There's no better example of this than our new airport at Tripoli. Here, you meet us on our home ground. It's where we welcome you to the Jamahiriya.

We're proud of our Airport, one of the most advanced in the world, and we'd like to take this opportunity to show you round...



The new terminal at Tripoli Airport was opened in 1978—since 1970, international passenger traffic, through Tripoli and Benghazi, has seen an eight-fold increase! Although of great capacity and with completely up-to-the-minute installations, the new terminal is Islamic and traditional in design. Its elegant arches and strong simple lines express a dignity and calm that is wholly Arab.



Coming soon

Early next year Libyan Arab Airlines will be taking delivery of its new 747 fleet—three aircraft in all—another dramatic leap forward in the airlines policy of continuous expansion. Following, as it does, so closely on the tenth Anniversary of the Revolution, this adds a potent affirmation of all that has happened since September 1st 1969, and carries forward the surge of development that will take the Jamahiriya into the eighties.

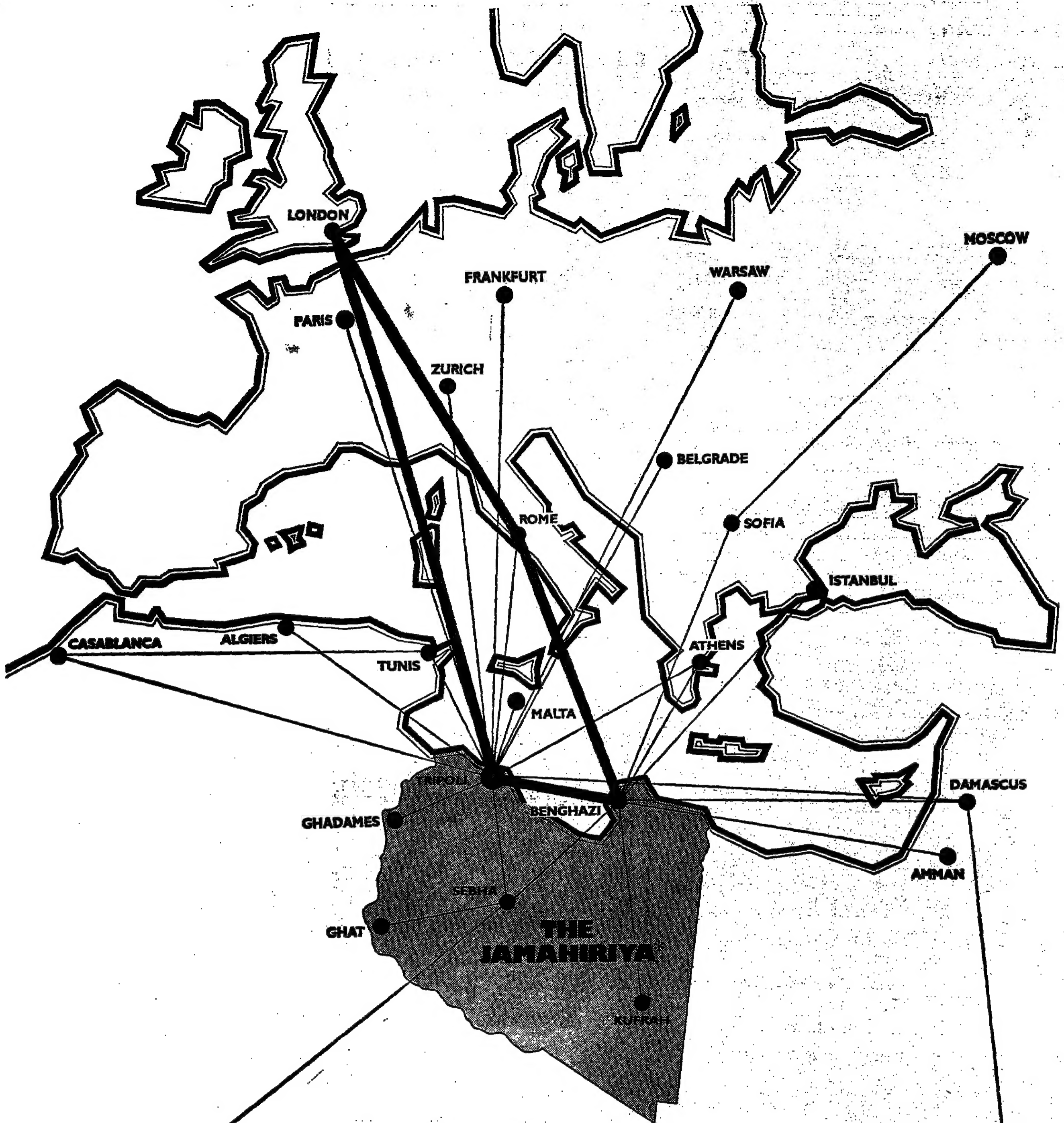


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* Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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Daily (LNI03)

Dep. LONDON 14.35
Arr. TRIPOLI 17.50
Dep. TRIPOLI 19.00
Arr. BENGHAZI 20.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI05)

Dep. LONDON 13.50
Arr. ROME 16.00
Dep. ROME 17.00
Arr. BENGHAZI 19.00

Jamahiriya - U.K. (Heathrow)

Daily (LNI02)

Dep. BENGHAZI 07.30
Arr. TRIPOLI 08.40
Dep. TRIPOLI 09.45
Arr. LONDON 13.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI04)

Dep. BENGHAZI 07.15
Arr. ROME 09.20
Dep. ROME 10.10
Arr. LONDON 12.25

London Office: Libyan Arab Airlines, 88 Piccadilly, London W1V 9HD
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LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES

* Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

HOME NEWS

Call for technology to have priority in all school teaching

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Technology must be made part of the mainstream of education in schools, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, told a conference in London yesterday on education's contribution to Britain's economic recovery.

Technology should no longer be regarded as a poor relation, or something for the non-academic pupil, he said. It must both infuse the whole curriculum, being made part of the basic approach to literacy, numeracy and dexterity, and be encouraged in its own right.

The evidence from the Schools Inspectorate's review of secondary education, due to be published next week, would not be reassuring, it would demand attention and action.

The recently published Government report on local authority arrangements for the school curriculum showed that Britain had "a long way to go".

While most authorities said they were trying to promote the development of a basic un-

derstanding of contemporary economic, social and political life, it was clear that such activity varied greatly in depth and quality, and was far from reaching all pupils.

The relationship between education and economic success was crucial, Mr Macfarlane said. He believed the mismatch between educational content and the needs of industry had contributed significantly to Britain's economic decline.

Mr Macfarlane hinted that the Government would make an announcement before Christmas about financial aid for the promotion of education in microtechnology. Speakers at yesterday's conference, organized by the Standing Conference on Schools, Science and Technology, expressed regret at the "disappearance" of the £12.5m promised by the Labour Government for education in microelectronics.

The conference passed resolutions calling for more imaginative solutions to the severe shortage of teachers of physics, mathematics and of craft, design and technology.

Large food price rises forecast next year

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Food prices would have to make large price rises next year to cover sharp increases in costs, Mr Derrick Hornby, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, said in London yesterday. "We are unable to keep absorbing higher costs of raw materials and packaging."

Mr Barrie Williams, deputy director-general of the federation, said that the cost of living was rising by 16 per cent a year while the cost of food was increasing by only 12 per cent. "That gap is going to be narrowed," he added.

But the federation, which represents members of the food companies in Britain, does not accept that farmers should charge higher prices. "I do not think that the farmers need it," Mr Hornby said. "They have done very nicely, thank you."

He rejected the claim by the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales for a substantial price rise through a devaluation of the "green pound" by a record 12 per cent in December. "If the farmers go on putting their prices up and up, their consumption will go down and down, and they will be out of business," he said.

"I believe that butter is the classic example, with surpluses all over the Community so that it has to be sold cheaply to eastern Europe, and where consumption across the Community is going down."

Mr James Clemenston, deputy president of the federation, said that food companies would oppose a devaluation next month. "We believe that when devaluations were needed, they coincided with the annual fixing of farm prices throughout the Community in the spring."

There is no such generalised demand for a devaluation, Mr Clemenston said. "Some farmers have very real problems and others have not."

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has appealed several times this year for farmers and food processors to hold their fire.

Mr Whitelaw's plan for short, sharp shocks runs into opposition

Punitive regime opposed by Home Office

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw's plans for short, sharp shocks for children at a detention centre, near Woking, have run into the entrenched opposition of a rather different Home Office philosophy.

The Home Office view, given on three separate occasions, is that stiffer penalties will not work. Any regime made deliberately more punitive would run a risk of inflicting the principles laid down in the United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners.

That was made clear by the Home Office 18 months ago in the Commons Expenditure Committee. No contrary opinion expressed publicly since.

The Home Office view is evolved through its own internal crime policy planning unit and based on worldwide research.

The unit, staffed by civil servants and established in 1974, prepared a working paper, *A Review of Criminal Justice Policy*, on which Home Office attitudes are based.

"Such research evidence as there is tends against the view that increasing the severity of penalties dunt-

nishes the level of recidivism, and the history of penal institutions both in this country and abroad suggests that, though the system itself may have a deterrent effect, harshness alone (at any rate of a degree that is acceptable to contemporary British society) is not a general deterrent."

The paper was published in 1977, only three months after Mr Whitelaw promised that the Conservatives would operate a glasshouse system of detention centres for some young delinquents "so that they receive a short, sharp shock treatment, which I hope will deter at least some of them from getting embroiled deeper into the mire of crime."

The unit's view was given much wider endorsement in *Prisons and the Prisoner* (published by the Stationery Office), which was styled "an authoritative statement of the policy followed by the prison service of England and Wales."

It says: "As regards humanity, there is room for more than one view about the conditions of detention which will be currently acceptable to society."

Though it does not name Mr Whitelaw, it refers to "some, for instance, who argue that im-

prisonment should be deliberately made a harsh and disagreeable experience because this will deter the offender from committing further crimes and will serve as a salutary warning to others."

The prison department believes these to be mistaken views because a custodial sentence is by its nature inherently unpleasant and its main deterrent effects lie in the deprivation of the offender's liberty and the restrictions necessarily arising from the regime.

Introduction of several punishment centres for children at Sand would mean boy civil servants going against their conscience and convictions.

A senior civil servant in the criminal policy field at the Home Office, Mr Michael Moriarty, who has gained an international reputation as an authority on penology, last month was due to leave the Home Office in a temporary secondment to a post in the Northern Ireland office in London.

The civil servant who headed the crime policy planning unit, Mr Anthony Rawsthorne, was also moved last month to a new job.

Mr Moriarty has been replaced by Mr W. J. Bohan, who is known as "immigration appeal hearings for his faithful articulation of Government policies, which have grown ever stricter over the years. But others, senior officials who understand the policy views are said in position."

Evidence so far published of the regime at Sand, one of the two detention centres in Britain where the experiment of harsh sentences is to be tried, suggests it is already exacting a heavy toll on the health of the boys who are sent there. It is to be made clearer how the boys are seen outside in general practice.

Although boys are said to benefit from the physical regime and medical supervision at Sand, Dr Backhouse, who has written in the confidential *Prison Medical Journal* that the physical condition of boys who arrive there is "considerably worse than those seen outside in general practice."

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Decline of West 'in interest of mankind'

By A Staff Reporter

Scholars and analysts who felt that the Third World should disengage from the international capitalist system were challenged in last night's fourth Reich Lecture on BBC radio 4 by Professor Ali Mazrui, professor of political science at Michigan University.

"It is too late to disengage," he said. "The industrialized countries could gradually destroy the world through pollution and other forms of ecological damage, or impoverish it by an indiscriminate or even reckless depletion of resources."

Professor Mazrui, whose theme is "The African Condition," was discussing the paradox of Africa's immense mineral wealth and agricultural potential coexisting with some of the lowest standards of living. The gap between elites and masses must be narrowed, he said. There must be a strategy of income distribution and land reform.

"The decline of Western civilization might well be at hand. It was in the interests of humanity that it should happen. It would allow the different segments of the human race to share more equitably the planet's resources and the power to control its future."

Efforts should be made to make possible minimum nutritional levels, minimum health care, minimum educational opportunities for children and the like.

In the short term it would be disastrous for the Third World if the United States and its allies made a deal in oil consumption. An America self-sufficient in oil was an America invulnerable to external pressures.

"If the northern industrialized countries could upset the economic of the Third World by draining its coffee, or using less copper, the southern hemisphere must also find ways of holding the industrialized nations to ransom."

Move to expedite abortion Bill angers some MPs

By Our Parliamentary Staff

MPs opposed to changes in the abortion law, protected angrily yesterday when Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for North Ayrshire and Gyle, successfully moved a motion requiring the Commons to consider the Bill (to sit three days a week instead of one).

He was not charged with filibustering, but thinks progress has been too slow for any chance of the report stage being reached on February 1.

The Bill makes further provisions with respect to termination of pregnancy by registered medical practitioners, and controversy centres on the proposed to reduce the upper limit for therapeutic abortions from 28 weeks to 20.

He suggested yesterday that there should be sittings twice a day, three days a week. "We are not going to have a Labour MP for Central Fife, protesting at this 'draconian' use of power by the Bill's supporters. They did not seem to care about the overwhelming evidence of medical opinion against it."

Without adequate time for discussion, "lies, distortions and exaggerations" could fly out before MPs had time to do anything about them, he said.

The motion was carried by nine votes to five.

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Carrickmore reaction 'too quick'

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

A warning against the direct or indirect penetration of the power of government into the daily operations of broadcasting is given in *Governing the BBC* published today by Lord Briggs, provost of Worcester College, Oxford, an official historian of the BBC.

Lord Briggs took six months off after the publication of Volume IV of his *History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom* to study the role of the BBC's governors, especially in the light of nine case histories published in the book, including the controversies over *Yesterday's Men* and *The Question of Ulster*.

"Since a mythology has arisen so fast about all these cases, I thought it was essential to go back and try to uncover the facts," Lord Briggs said this week.

One of the book's main points, he said, was a simple one: that there was no precise formula for the relationship between the chairman, the governors, the director-general and the staff of the BBC.

Lord Briggs said he had been writing the book now, he would have discussed the Carrickmore incident. The Irish issue was still the most sensitive: reactions had been too quick about government.

that government expects everybody else to govern itself sensibly in a way it finds itself possible when it faces the problems of governing the country."

Lord Briggs says in his book whether any weaknesses in the BBC's handling of difficult situations would have been lessened under a different system of broadcasting such as a devolved system, separate radio and television, or a system supervised by a special Ministry for Broadcasting or a council concerned with both the BBC and the commercial companies.

Governing the BBC (BBC Publications, £10).

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Dancing school rescues stage company

From Our Correspondent
East Grinstead

Genee Theatre Projects, the charity company leasing East Grinstead's Adelphi Theatre, which ceased operations last month because of money difficulties, is not to go into liquidation.

An offer from the directors of the adjoining Bush Davies Dancing School to take responsibility for the company's liabilities has been accepted.

The theatre board's chairman, Mr John Harrison, said yesterday that all creditors would be paid. The theatre would stay closed for a time.

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Government reneging on conservation commitments, amenity groups say

By John Young
Planning Reporter

An unprecedented and serious confrontation is building up between influential amenity groups and the Government, which, they say, is reneging on its commitment to conserve the countryside.

In a speech to the Royal Town Planning Institute summer school in York last September, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that conservation was perhaps his prime responsibility. National parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest had to be preserved.

Since then, those words have been thrown angrily back in his face in statements from bodies including the Government-sponsored Countryside Commission, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Ramblers' Association and the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society.

At least four issues have been identified, of which perhaps the most controversial is the Government's stated intention not to introduce more head conservation orders, as recommended by Lord Forchess in his report on Exmoor.

The others are its failure to provide greater protection for the wetlands of the Broads and the Somerset Levels, and its refusal to designate the North Pennines as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The official view of the Exmoor controversy was contained in the sixth and last of a series of recent consultation papers on the forthcoming Wildlife and Countryside Bill. Ministers were said to be unconvinced that there was a case for conservation orders, as proposed by the previous Government.

The Countryside Commission claims that voluntary agreements with farmers have not worked, and need to be backed

by reserve powers. It says it does not share the optimism of ministers expressed in the consultation paper.

Mr Alan Mattingly, chairman of the Council for National Parks and Secretary of the Ramblers' Association, has accused the Government of refusing to heed the words of the park authority, and of ignoring the recommendations of the Countryside Commission.

The Exmoor Society says that the consultation paper reflects the views of the Countryside Commission and the National Farmers' Union, "both of which bodies must necessarily be more concerned with the profitability of their own holdings than with the conservation of Exmoor."

Mr Roland Wade, chairman of the CPRE, argues that, in refusing to designate the North Pennines, Mr Heseltine has ignored the recommendations of the commission, his official advisers, and has instead listened to the landowners, the farmers and the Forestry Commission.

Plea not to cut aid to problem drinkers

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The all-party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group today criticises the Government for cutting off from next spring money to local voluntary organizations working with drinkers.

A statement from the group says that many of the organizations will vanish. It particularly regrets that there exist only two small detoxification centres to look after people referred there by police. Future financing of one of them is under threat.

"In 1978 there were 100,756 convictions for drunkenness and 2,710 receptions into prison of people convicted of drunkenness offences."

It is wasteful to treat people that way, the group says. It wants the Secretary of State for Social Services to think about continuing the supply of money to places for problem drinkers until the full implications of the May report on prisons has been properly considered.

Houses 'should be designed for change in fuel supply'

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A proposal for an energy impact statement on building projects run by the state, the nationalised industries and local authorities was outlined in London yesterday by Sir William Hawthorn, chairman of the Government's advisory council on energy conservation.

He said in an address to the Institution of Municipal Engineers on energy conservation for local authorities that coal would have to flow across international frontiers like oil and in the form of gas.

Combined heat and power networks would have to be adopted for industrial and residential zones, and new buildings designed to allow for a switch in fuel supplies.

He gave a warning that if we did not do so there was a danger of locking our grandchildren into an energy system that could not be sustained.

The main thrust of his advice was that no new industrial, commercial, administrative or residential building should be built making it impossible to change from oil to gas or coal or to any other source of fuel.

Sir William, Professor of Thermodynamics at Cambridge University, argued that it was necessary to keep those options open, particularly in the light of events after the World Energy Conference in 1977.

Since then 16 Western countries with the highest interest in nuclear power had revised downwards their estimates of demand for electricity from this source from between 900 and 1,800 gigawatts to 500 to 900 gw.

The oil depletion policy of Opec countries was bringing oil production to a plateau faster than expected. Against that background, the world coal had been revised upwards from 1,000 million tonnes for the West by the 1990s to more than 2,000 million tonnes; hence the reason for the development of an international coal trade.

Britain's Chinese protest at immigration proposals

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

From the first time Britain's Chinese have been moved to serious political protest. The cause is the Government's proposals for new immigration rules.

A letter has been sent from a basement in London's Chinese quarter in Gerrard Street to Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, criticizing proposals that will affect the community's ability to maintain its economic self-sufficiency.

"Our percentage of unemployed is virtually all," the Chinese Action Group said, "and most of us, with the exception of professional representation, have in fact existed in our own sub-economy of small businesses."

It requested particularly the £100,000 minimum capital requirement for people entering to set up business, restrictions on dependants and the limited number of work permits.

The White Paper proposals destroyed any possibility for starting new enterprises or developing family businesses for the mutual benefits of our communities.

"As labour is so expensive, we rely on our children and elders to help in the catering industry, which in turn supports your main economy," the group said.

The eligibility of obtaining residence after four years of employment in this country, which so far had been a discretionary measure, would be at the mercy of the employer as a result of Government proposal.

Police say man admitted spade murder

From Our Correspondent
St Albans

Peter West, aged 39, a storeman, was said at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday to have confessed to the killing of his lover's husband.

Det Supt Neil Dickens said that when he mentioned the word "spade" tears had come to Mr West's eyes. Mr West is alleged to have killed Mr Frederick Chapman with a spade after Mrs Margaret Chapman had given her husband sleeping pills that made him unconscious.

Mr West, of Jackman's Estate, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, and Mrs Chapman, aged 32, also of Jackman's Estate, both deny murdering Mr Chapman last February.

The trial continues today.

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PHILIPS FULL REMOTE CONTROL TELEVISION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

PARLIAMENT, November 28, 1979

MP pleads: do not be seduced by PR system

House of Commons
Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, refused to give an undertaking that there would be a proportional representation system in the next British elections to the European Parliament.

Mr. David Wileby (Caernarvon, Pl Cymru) asked what progress was being made on discussions about the common system of election to be followed for the next election to the European Parliament.

Sir Ian Gilmour—Article 1 (3) of the Treaty of Rome provides that the European Parliament shall draw up proposals for elections by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all member states.

It goes on to say that the Council, acting unanimously, shall then lay down the appropriate provisions which it is required to adopt in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

The European Parliament have not yet drawn up proposals.

Mr. Wileby—Will the Lord Privy Seal give an assurance on behalf of the Government that they will accept that since the election of the system which will be adopted by the Council, the Government will accept that the system, as outlined by the previous Government?

Sir Ian Gilmour—We rule nothing out. There is a way to go to see what we can do. We have to see what the European Parliament proposes before we give any assurance.

Mr. Wileby—Will the Lord Privy Seal give an assurance on behalf of the Government that they will accept that since the election of the system which will be adopted by the Council, the Government will accept that the system, as outlined by the previous Government?

Sir Ian Gilmour—I do not think that arises. It will not be a matter which comes into our consideration, under either electoral system. I am unable to come to a judgment on the matter.

Mr. James Hill (Southampton, Test, C)—Will the minister be aware of the fact that the European Parliament is having an identification problem abroad, without FR on a regional basis?

Sir Ian Gilmour—I am not sure that I accept directly what Mr. Hill says. I do not believe that people who are elected under FR need have an identification problem, but having voted for FR several times.... (Some cheers and interruptions.)

That does not alter the Government's view that it is necessary to see what the European Parliament will propose before we make a decision ourselves.

Mr. Peter Short, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab)—Since there is no proposal, I can only say that I am not wishing to over-commit myself, but all the same, it should be made plain to governments of Europe that we are considering the matter, and also to European Assembly members, that there is a strong view on both sides of this House against the introduction of a European or domestic elections, quite contrary to the absurd proposition put forward by the President of the Council, Mr. De Gaulle, who obviously has influence in these matters. (Laughter.)

Sir Ian Gilmour—It is not for me to say into these internal Labour Party squabbles at all, but I appreciate what Mr. Short says. This House, in votes in the last Parliament, has made its majority opinion perfectly clear.

UK newspapers not on general sale in Russia

Instructions had been given to British embassies in the Soviet Union and eastern European countries to monitor and report regularly on implementation of the Helsinki Convention, Mr. Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during question time.

Mr. Hurd added—Information is also exchanged regularly with our partners in Nato and the Nine. A summary of the results will continue to be made available to the House at six-monthly intervals until the review conference in Madrid next year.

Mr. Hurd—Is he satisfied with progress in persuading the Soviet Union to fulfil its commitment to a free flow of information in and out of the country and inside the Soviet Union, and how many copies are freely available in Moscow and what is Mr. Hurd's intention to increase their number?

Mr. Hurd (Mid Oxon, C)—We are not satisfied. There has been some improvement since Helsinki but not enough. This is something which will be pursued at the Madrid review.

British newspapers are found, too frequently only in tourist hotels, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during question time.

Mr. James Lamond (Oldham, East, Lab)—Is there any monitoring in our country of breaches of Helsinki? Has there been any evidence of dissident workers who publish pamphlets attacking their own management or the Government's policy being dismissed for it? (Interruptions.)

Mr. Hurd—No. That is not a matter for me.

Responsible pay bargaining only effective way forward: important talks next week

There was no alternative to the Government's economic policies in the depressing conditions it had faced since the election, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (East Surrey, C) said when he opened a debate on the economy by moving a Government motion. That the House supports the economic policies of the Government.

He said the action he had taken was clearly essential to reestablish and maintain firm control over monetary and fiscal policy. The increase in minimum lending rate was no more welcome to the Government than anyone else, but the Government's action was clearly necessary.

Market judgments had been clear. Confidence in the gilt edged market was at a low level. Substantial gilt sales had been made and there was still a steady demand for small scale demand. The Government's action was clearly necessary.

The rise in prices and wages was accelerating. Public spending was rising faster than the country could afford. Monetary growth was excessive and the balance of payments was in substantial deficit.

The economic indicators since the Budget (he said) confirm that the Government's policy is sound. The Government's action was clearly necessary.

The most dismal picture of our industrial and economic situation in double figures and rising fast.

In the face of the depressing conditions, the essential tasks were to reduce inflation, restore balance to the economy and to the balance between resources produced and consumed.

Uncomfortable though it is, the way to reduce the demand for credit is through interest rates. They hit equally on all forms of borrowing and investment.

Success in restraining monetary growth without relying on unacceptably high interest rates is the only way to achieve a sustainable government borrowing. If they were to avoid paying excessive weight on monetary policy, the Government would be undermining its own objectives.

There should be no misunderstanding that the Government's policy is to expand outwards to expand outwards.

Mr. Denis Healey (Leeds, East, Lab), chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, moved, as an amendment: That this House do not support the Government's policy to expand outwards to expand outwards.

He said the failure of the Government's economic policy stared it in the face. Wherever it looked, the Government was confronted with a picture of economic disaster.

When the Government took office, it had a clear objective to get inflation rate down and to improve industrial performance and the supply side of the economy.

They were the right objectives, which Labour strongly supported, but the policies the Government had chosen were wrong.

It aimed to reduce inflation by control of money supply alone and to improve industrial performance by increasing incentives.

Nothing can justify (he said) wage increases at the level now being demanded and achieved. This will lead to a further increase in real earnings, but the Government cannot expect working men to see the Government increasing the price of their labour.

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Both sides must play a responsible part in this judgment. The cost of inflation is too high for any one of those factors that would have to be faced.

If the private sector was not to face an excessive burden, then public spending must be firmly in check. There was no sensible alternative to the policies the Government was following.

The White Paper demonstrated the determination to curb public spending in the interest of firm fiscal policy.

Our fiscal policy (he said) will be maintained consistent with our monetary stance. With that objective in view, we shall continue to keep all our policies under review, including plans for public spending.

There were some who argued that monetarism by itself was not enough to control money supply. It represented the totality of the Government's policy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Government would be responsible in pay bargaining. In the context of a firm control of the money supply, excessive pay settlements could only jeopardise output and employment.

The outlook (he said) for commerce and industry, private and public as the public service, including the people employed in them and their families, does depend so much on the responsibility of the Government's policy.

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The problem involved in product liability

House of Lords
The present law of compensation for death or injury caused by defective products was open to serious criticism, Lord Alton of Liverpool said when he opened a debate on recommendations of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury.

He said the law had for a long time provided some measure of protection. If a wife bought a ladder which had a defective rung and she fell off and injured herself, she could sue the manufacturer for breach of contract.

It was her husband who fell off, he could not take action against the manufacturer. He might possibly bring an action in tort against the manufacturer on the grounds of negligence, but in practice he would find it far from easy to bring his claim home.

The Royal Commission was set up in 1971, and for good measure the English and Scottish Law Commission have also been asked to review the law relating to loss or damage caused by defective products.

There had been disagreement over components. The Royal Commission thought that the responsibility of a component manufacturer should still remain when the component was included in the finished product, but the Scottish Law Commission thought otherwise.

On certain products, the English Law Commission and the Royal Commission thought there should be a distinction between the liability of a manufacturer and the liability of a component manufacturer.

It was a considerable disappointment to the Royal Commission members that there had been no serious public discussion of the issues involved.

Lord Alton (L) said there had been expressed in some quarters the view that the Commission's report was too cautious. It might still be introduced, it might still be improved, and less the number of new products brought on the market.

He was not so sure. The introduction of the concept of strict liability would not affect so much the introduction of new products as the introduction of new products as the introduction of new products.

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Law Report November 28 1979

Queen's Bench Division
Solicitors' costs in criminal trials

Regina v. Wilkinson
Before Mr. Justice Robert Goff (Judgment delivered Nov. 21)

A Law Society publication, *The Expense of Time*, which proposed a system for calculating solicitors' expenses, did not provide a sufficiently reliable guide to be used as a basis for taxation of costs.

It was open to the court to make so fundamental a change in the existing practice as to allow a solicitor, when claiming a daily fee for court attendance, to claim in addition to that fee a fee for the time he spent on the case.

The Lordship dismissed an appeal by S. Stunt & Son, solicitors, of Chichester, against a taxing master's review of the costs claimed by them in a criminal case.

Mr. Robert Gatehouse, QC, and Mr. A. J. C. Simpson for the Society v. Mr. Mark Potter for the Attorney-General.

THE LORDSHIP said that legal aid was granted to a defendant in criminal proceedings, and the costs of the proceedings were paid by the State. At the conclusion of the trial, the solicitors submitted their bill for costs to the taxing master.

There had been disagreement over components. The Royal Commission thought that the responsibility of a component manufacturer should still remain when the component was included in the finished product, but the Scottish Law Commission thought otherwise.

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The Lancia Beta 2000 has always been a rather special car. From the moment you get behind the wheel you know it's going to be no ordinary experience.

The performance is exactly what you would expect from Lancia.

you're in complete control.

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added luxury of a sliding steel roof and alloy wheels.

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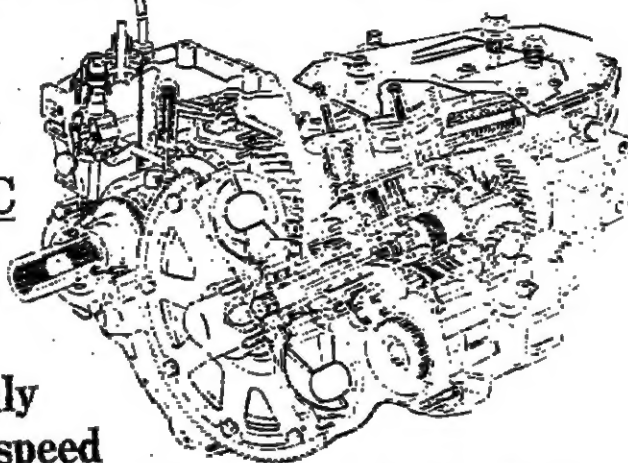
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WEST EUROPE

M Giscard strives to bring moderation back to political life

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 28

President Giscard d'Estaing has spent an hour seeking calm down the many tensions and crises that have been reported by the news media in France over the past few months.

He took the opportunity of his four televised fireside chats last night—An Hour with the President of the Republic—to try to restore a tone of moderation to the political debate and to disclose his own ideas for the future of France in the world.

There was, he explained, a need for the three journalists asking him questions, no political crisis, there was simply an excess of words. French politics were based on the rhythm of elections and as there had been no election this year there would be none next year there really was no event to bang political argument on to.

Discounting the fact that the Gaullist RPR had refused to support the Government's budget, he said that people had voted for the Gaullists in the belief that they were to be loyal members of the government coalition.

A majority is made by voters and not by declarations, he said. The Government had the support of the people.

The President went on to his way to praise M Raymond Barre, his Prime Minister, and was at pains to point out that M Barre was a confidant of Giscard de Gaulle and a man very much in the Gaullist tradition. His remarks were clearly aimed at trying to win Gaullist supporters away from the party, now led by M Jacques Chirac, to support M Barre.

Economically, he said France was now a world leader in space, computer technology as well as in agriculture and sea fishing. A hundred thousand jobs had been created last year and the country had changed from being among the less developed to being among the more developed.

Internationally, the President suggested that the solution to the Iranian problem was not in a head-on confrontation but round the table at the United Nations. Had France been foolish enough not to give sanctuary to Ayatollah Khomeini during his exile then it would have been France and not the United States which would have been the butt of Iranian anger.

He vigorously defended French intervention in Central Africa which led to the overthrow of Emperor Bokassa. Had

France not acted, he said, an Iran-type situation could have developed there.

Mention of Central Africa gave the journalists the opportunity to press him on the story published in the satirical weekly journal, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, last month that he had received a diamond spray present from Emperor Bokassa.

All the presents he had received, he said, had either been sent to museums, to charity or were in the care of the secretariat at the Elysée Palace. Dismissing the whole affair, he said: "One must allow base things to die in their own poison."

The scandal surrounding the suicide of M Robert Boulin, was dealt with in similar fashion. The President would not answer the question because the late minister had written about it himself. M Boulin now deserved peace and rest. As far as France was concerned, the President would assure everyone that it was an honest country with honest officials.

Asked about Britain's case for a reduction in its EEC budget contributions, he reaffirmed the question because the late minister had written about it himself. M Boulin now deserved peace and rest. As far as France was concerned, the President would assure everyone that it was an honest country with honest officials.

France was benefiting less from the common agricultural policy than Ireland and Denmark. It was quite normal for new members of a club to try to change the rules shortly after joining. At the same time it was as contrary to French conceptions of the Community that rules should simply be changed because the Community has been enlarged.

The one new thing that came out in the interview was that the President intended to put forward a plan to reorganize the world monetary system. He showed how pleased he is with the progress of the European Monetary system and clearly believed this has had a great deal to do with making the French franc so strong. He said he would be taking the initiative next spring at the summit of the industrialized nations to put forward a scheme for a world monetary system.

The whole tenor of the interview was to restore calm and confidence. The President seemed assured and a cartoon in *Le Monde* today shows him reading into the microphone: "The 1979 Giscard d'Estaing prize is awarded to M Giscard d'Estaing."

The only thing that seemed to worry him was France's demographic decline. In less than 20 years, he said, only one person in a hundred in the world would be French. It was his concern to find a way of making that 1 per cent heard.

Hundreds see flying object hovering over Madrid

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 28

An unidentified flying object was observed over Madrid by hundreds of people in the pre-dawn hours today.

Reporters for two local radio stations broadcast eyewitness information on the phenomenon throughout the night. A municipal police spokesman said police had also sighted the object and described it as circular and giving off intense flashes of blue light.

Two police cars were sent to the intersection of Maria de Molina and Velazquez streets

at about 2 am when the object appeared to remain stationary above the intersection for some time, and a crowd of spectators gathered.

Radio reporters said the object gave off green, red and white flashes. They said it was first reported over the capital at about 10.30 pm on Tuesday. Low-frequency radio transmissions were reportedly interrupted for about a half-hour beginning at 1 am and state security investigators and the Spanish Air Force observed and reported the presence of the object.



The Pope inspects a guard of honour on his arrival at Ankara airport.

Continued from page 1

the presence of the Pope will be seen as a pro-Western move in the Muslim world because of the tension arising from the Iranian situation.

The Pope said during the flight here that he respected Islam as a monotheistic religion. He followed the views of the Second Vatican Council which favoured relations with the other great religions. But he is much more clearly concentrating on the promise of an ecumenical success which he feels could be plucked from the confusion into which he has come.

He stayed tonight at the Nunciature. He goes to Istanbul tomorrow and, before returning to Rome on Friday he will go south to see Ephesus.

Students picket Dublin Castle

From David Wood
Dublin, Nov 28

Before West Europe's heads of government have arrived at Dublin Castle for the EEC summit, students are mounting a customary picket in numbers roughly matched by the turnout of Irish police.

Release Breton political prisoners demands the banners, with a fine disregard for the fact that Breton politics—or even Spain's entry into the Community—will be about the last thought in the minds of Mr Thatcher and her colleagues when the summit opens tomorrow.

It will undoubtedly be a one-issue conference. Mrs Thatcher demands a broad balance in payments and receipts for the United Kingdom within the EEC, and the Eights have to persuade her, if they can, to take far less than the £1,000m she is pressing for.

Mrs Thatcher came back from the Strasbourg summit in June, when the French were the presidents in office, to confide to her senior colleagues and friends that she had been sadly disillusioned. Looking at the nervous Irish agenda for this week's meeting, the prospects are not much better.

In the usual two days allotted for a European summit (which has no standing in the Rome Treaty, but has come to be regarded as a strategic meeting of great importance) the socialists look like playing a more important part than the discussions.

The heads of government fly in tomorrow morning in time for luncheon with the President of Ireland at his official home. Not until mid-afternoon will the first session of serious making begin in George's Hall, Dublin Castle, and in the evening the dialogue—or squabble—will have to end to allow everybody to dress for dinner.

Friday is to be the day of serious business, with a start, the agenda says, at 9.30 am. As for Lamb, she will intervene, and then Mrs Thatcher's plea or ultimatum will be discussed until the evening.

At that point everything will stop for Mr Lynch, the Irish Prime Minister, to tell the assembled press what has been decided; then the Presidents and Prime Ministers will depart in their aircraft, much as the captains and kings

in current attempts to improve long-strained relations between the two countries.

But it was seen as a significant gesture of respect for the Pope. Turkey is intensely interested in the Pope's visit, immediately after he arrived here and shook hands with President Fahri Koruturk, the Turkish leader asked him: "Which air route did you use?"

From Rome, over the Adriatic Sea, over Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, the Pope replied.

Because Greece has a string of islands just off the Turkish coast, it regards Greek air space as ascending from North Thrace to the Dardanelles and thence along the Mediterranean coast as far as the island of Rhodes.—Ruter.

Bruising contest of wills in EEC

From Our Special Correspondent
Dublin, Nov 28

Backed by an unusual degree of national unity, Mrs Thatcher flies here tomorrow for what is certain to be the most bruising contest of wills with EEC partners since Britain joined the Community nearly seven years ago.

There was no doubt, Mr Henri Simonet, the Belgian Foreign Minister, told *Le Soir* today that the EEC was facing "a very serious internal crisis". If then summed up the problem with brutal simplicity: "If one country wants to pay less, other countries must pay more."

The rest of the EEC has already indicated how far it is prepared to go in reducing Britain's deficit on payments to and from the Community budget. Mr Simonet added: "What Britain was demanding—broad balance—could not be considered a basis for negotiation."

Although he was speaking only for Belgium, Mr Simonet's remarks broadly summarise the views of Britain's eight partners. For its part, Mr Thatcher's Government is on record as saying that what is on offer is "less money" from the Community.

The only thing that might change this picture would be readiness by Britain to compromise in other areas. The West Germans say British oil prices are exorbitant, the French want help in setting up a common market in lamb which would protect their farmers, and there is a general wish for an end to the dispute over how to share out the Community's fish catch.

Mrs Thatcher, however, sees the budget as an almost Manichean conflict between right and wrong. It grotesque, in her view, that Britain should be expected to offer bribes to remedy the self-inflicted injustice whereby the third poorest

country in the EEC pays the highest net contribution to the budget.

"Not another penny piece to those leeches," the Prime Minister is reported to have shouted earlier this week at a distinguished visitor from the European Commission, whom she might be making a mistake in trying to get everybody in one go at Dublin.

Even if she were in a mood for a deal, and her remarks hardly suggest this, Mrs Thatcher is likely to point to the oddity of the Germans, those arch-defenders of the market-place, criticising Britain for selling its oil at market prices, as for Lamb, she will remind President Giscard d'Estaing that it is France—not Britain—that is breaking the law.

As things stand, the most that other member states can be prepared to offer is a budget refund of some £350m next year (with perhaps comparable refunds for two or three years thereafter), coupled with an unqualified increase in EEC spending in Britain.

The European Commission has suggested investment in the coal industry (as part of a wider EEC plan to burn more domestically-produced coal and less imported oil), improvement of road and rail links, and modernisation of hill-farming as possibilities for increased Community expenditure in Britain.

Britain would also become eligible for special loans from the European Investment Bank, at generously subsidised rates of interest, if working was fully tied into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System (EMS).

Despite the positive comments on the EMS by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in Brussels this week, the official Government line remains that the true value of the pound is masked by the revenues from North Sea oil and that it would accordingly

be premature to commit sterling to a fixed parity.

Even on the most optimistic arithmetic, action on all these fronts, coupled with a direct refund, would barely offset half of the forecast net British deficit next year of between £1,000m and £1,200m, and Mrs Thatcher has said she cannot accept "half a loaf".

The other line of approach for Britain would be to insist on concrete commitments to reduce or at least control the rate of growth of agricultural spending, the main cause of the British deficit.

The trouble here is that the European Commission's proposals for reducing the food subsidies, which mainly involve taxing those farmers who produce beyond a certain level, are disliked by the British themselves. Britain contends that its relatively more efficient producers would be disproportionately penalised.

In what time is left over from the budget discussion the heads of government will be reviewing the grim economic prospects for next year, which have been shattered by the £13,000m added to the EEC's import costs by rising oil prices.

Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the Commission, will also present a paper setting out his concern that the EEC is falling behind in the accelerating technological revolution in computers and micro-processors. He will make the point that, although the Nine provide a third of the world market in this field, they are far from supplying it.

Mona Lisa copy cut

Sofia, Nov 28—A man suffering from schizophrenia slashed a copy of the Mona Lisa in the National Art Gallery in Sofia, according to the Bulgarian News Agency. Guards prevented him from damaging more than one corner of the painting.

Arrigo Levi sees advantage in wider East-West agenda

Arms control bargaining cuts risk of upsetting the nuclear balance

Experts at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London have made a projection of what the balance of nuclear forces in Europe would be, assuming that Nato goes ahead with the decision to build and deploy a number of new missiles, and that Soviet Union continues with its present rate of deployment of 50 new SS20s per year.

By 1985, with all the new Nato missiles (108 Pershing 2 and 464 Cruise missiles) in their European bases, the present European nuclear forces between the two sides would still have become "marginally wider".

Of course, the gap in favour of Russia would be much worse if Nato does nothing at all.

Nato's decision, which is supposed to be taken by the alliance's foreign ministers in their December meeting, is an example of democracy at work—or rather of democracies at work.

A prominent part in the debate, which has occupied for months parliamentarians, party congresses, learned seminars and newspapers, has fallen on the West's partners-adversaries in nuclear weaponry, the Russians.

It is only right that they should have participated in our decision-making process, since they are vitally interested in its outcome: pity that we cannot do the same when they decide their own modernisation processes.

This is not, however, entirely true: America and Russia have been officially discussing for almost a decade each other's plans on strategic weapons, through SALT I and SALT II.

Conventional weapons in Europe have been debated in the so-called MBFR talks in Vienna, which at least kept open channels between the two sides.

But on Theatre Nuclear Forces, which belongs to the so-called "grey area", uncovered by either negotiation, there was a clear gap in East-West relations. Officially, the West has been discussing for almost a decade each other's plans on strategic weapons, through SALT I and SALT II.

This implies a widening of arms control negotiations to the whole spectrum of weaponry. These negotiations have not yet stopped the arms race, even less have they set in motion a process of disarmament.

But they have reduced the risk of sudden upsets of the balance of power. For this reason, more talks are better than less, and one must sincerely welcome Soviet participation in our own debates on strategic weapons (INF).

This is in itself the start of that negotiation on which, in spite of Mr Gromyko's obscure warnings in Bonn, is certain to develop sooner or later, after Nato's decision in SALT II.

The search for a common head of the Soviet Communist Party, told *L'Unité* recently that, even if the United States Senate were to reject the SALT II treaty, the Soviet Union would not stop fighting for disarmament.

It is only reasonable to believe that this noble fight would equally continue if Nato would equally continue its fight, although the numbers of Nato's new missiles will define

itely be negotiable, a reduce to zero is inadvisable, what the Russians may do at their future SS20s.

The 120 or so SS20s are already deployed repress by themselves a qualitative well as quantitative change the balance of power, not because they are more mobile and invulnerable—w but also because the older, but less precise and powerful, could be used only "counter-city" weapons, in the SS20s, with a precision created by a factor of six, their somewhat "saw-tooth" heads could be used in "counter-force" role against Nato bases, command, communication centres.

An American reply to an attack through their ICI would look "suicidal" in age of increasing star parity, and appears ever credible.

The new Euro-missiles, creating an intermediate, biguous stage in the scenarios of a European war, will define the "credibility" of American guarantees to Europe. So power will be perceived being less irresistible, may be in a political crisis.

Bundy, when he says, dispirited Kissinger's some provocative views on the "American" stance, which is likely to be just as great in the future as in the past, thanks to existence of American G.I. Europe, and to the very certainty about American behaviour.

It is true, as he points out, that "although no one knows that a major engagement Europe would escalate to strategic nuclear level, essential point is that no one possibly knows it not."

But if the prevention of must be based on such unrainies—as it must—we make sure that a not only in any type of amount does not come existence: the uncertain ceptions on which nuclear peace is founded would survive the advent of a superiority on either side.

So, the search for Nato go around and directed effort made by the Sc Union to make us change minds.

But it is just as important to strengthen and "institutionalise" the future par of negotiations on arms control at all levels. We cannot a new "communications" to arise between East and West in such vital nature.

East and West cannot afford to fall into the trap where many threats to the peace, the world continuously o nate from the instability of Third World.

On the contrary, it is in interest of East and West to strengthen their "partnership" in the future, where, however, imperfect already exists, as in arms control, and to extend it to all areas.

A solemn reassurance to be offered to the 80 United Nations, that, in a transition, remains the guide strategy of the West Alliance.

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Ingmar Bergman wins his long tax dispute

Stockholm, Nov 28—A protracted tax dispute with the Swedish Government, which drove Ingmar Bergman, the film director, into exile more than three years ago, has ended. Mr Bergman's lawyer said today.

The Supreme Administrative Court upheld a lower court decision that Mr Bergman's case against the Government was worth only 150,000 crowns (about £15,000) in back taxes (about 7.5 per cent of the Government's demands).

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12 composers bring out morning paper

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 28

The daily paper *Nice Matin* reappeared again this morning after a 15-day absence, caused by a dispute over the introduction of new technology. The typesetting was done by 12 of the 85 composers, all members of the moderate Force Ouvrière union.

The communist CGT union, which is at the centre of the dispute, has agreed to let its members return to work, subject to the management accepting the outcome of national negotiations due to start on December 7. The offer has been rejected. The management considers that it is not a meaningful gesture, and the union is determined to stick to its position.

Cologne court uproar over Nazi past of witness

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 28

There were emotional outbursts among French Jews attending the Cologne trial of three former Paris Gestapo and SS men today after a co-plaintiff accused a witness of being a convicted Nazi criminal.

He and about a dozen spectators stormed the court while others shouted "curse Nazis!" and "You murdered my mother!"

The disturbances were the first at this trial—started during the questioning of Anton Spillner, aged 65, a former guard at Drancy, a camp through which French Jews passed on their way to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Herr Spillner claimed to have known virtually nothing about transports of children from the camp to Auschwitz.

At this point, Maître Serge Kerscheid, a Bonn-based lawyer, sprang to his feet and asserted that the witness was not to be trusted since he had been sentenced to death in his absence in France in May 1954, for crimes committed in Nazi camps.

Mr Kerscheid, who is taking part as a co-plaintiff, having lost relatives at Auschwitz, then dramatically walked out of court.

Czech dissident jailed

Vienna, Nov 28—A Czechoslovak dissident was convicted of subversion by a court in Brno last night and jailed for three and a half years, according to court sources here.

Albert Cerny, a supporter of the charter 77 human rights movement, was found guilty of subversion against the state and complicity in copying and distributing illegal publications by Jaroslav Savada, a Czechoslovak writer.

Mr Savada, who is not a Charter supporter, was jailed for 30 months in August 1978, after giving evidence at a trial against the sentence, had been detained without trial in February. He was a member of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS).

Last month, five VONS members received jail sentences between three and five years, after being charged with subversion charges, and some here said four others had been in police custody awaiting trial since last May.—Ruter.

29 November 1979

The Listener



The Last of England?

By John Grigg. Second of our 'Portrait of the Week' series. See page 10.

Today's Listener includes the Richard Dimbleby Lecture by Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission. He examines the present state of the British political system, asks whether our traditional stability is turning into rigidity, and considers how we could improve the form and content of our politics.

Suez 1956: A General Remembers. General Sir Hugh Stockwell, commander of the land forces during the Suez crisis, reflects on the events of 1956 as portrayed by Ian Curteis in his television play.

Also in this issue, John Grigg presents a portrait of Lady Astor, with contributions from those who knew her; and Ali Mazrui describes Africa's burden of under-development.

The Listener

For a balanced view of the world today
On sale now, 30p

OVERSEAS

Soviet hears
eakest economic
recast since the war

Michael Binyon

Nov 28

Members who assembled all parts of the Soviet today heard one of the economic forecasts for the country since the Second World War. It came hard on heels of a tough speech by President Brezhnev describing this year's as far from satisfactory.

Presented by Mr. Baidakov, chairman of the State Planning Committee, the session of the Soviet Union's Parliament, the Soviet Union's highest legislative body, heard the results of the current five-year plan and targets for next output in a number of sectors of industry have been set down considerably below the current five-year plan. Figures also showed that the grain harvest was set for four years. Only 11 million tonnes of grain were harvested compared with the record of 237 million in 1978.

A drop caused by a severe and a spring drought in parts of the country will be the result of this year's poor harvest, it was said, but it should have been less than the country's potential allowed. As a result, the economy was suffering from imbalances, shortages and insufficient reserves.

The Soviet leader, often using hard-hitting language, said a great many ministries and enterprises were unable to overcome the force of inertia. And he blamed several ministers by name, including the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Power, for disorganization, poor results and shortcomings that affected the rest of industry.

Albania's Stalinist rulers
wooded by 'Pravda'

Our Own Correspondent

Nov 28

Unusually conciliatory marking the thirty-fifth anniversary of the liberation from the Nazis, *Pravda* suggested that Moscow like to normalize its relations with Albania and did not wish to divide the two.

Russians had always had difficulties in Albanian relations as the Communist Party said, and these were now being overcome in the interests of all anti-imperialist forces.

Albania broke off relations with the Soviet Union in 1961, and the Soviet leadership on and interference in the internal affairs of the country, which was two years ago when it was condemned.

Official attacks augur ill for
China's democracy wall

Nov 28—The future

China's "democracy wall" is being attacked today after harsh in the year-old forum by members of the People's Congress, equivalent of parliament of deputies, to deal with the New China News Agency in a report on the meeting of the Standing Committee. It says whether any decision on the wall had been made.

A 200-yard stretch of brick along Peking's Boulevard was first "democracy wall" last year, when the authorities tearing down posters criticized the state and a focus of dissent, known to the Chinese as the name of a street.

Official attacks on the wall

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Nov 28

will celebrate the lunar (which begins on Feb. 7) by inaugurating a passenger liner service between Hong Kong and Shanghai. The ship will carry 500 passengers, and the service, named Shanghai, is a new line for the China Navigation Company.

The ship will be a 13,000-ton vessel, which would take two and a half days to reach Hong Kong. It was also alleged that there was a group of mercenaries waiting in Durbani to be flown in to support the usurpers. However, some prominent local people were arrested as well as foreigners.

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Pentagon
ready
to punish
Iran

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Nov 28

The high holy days of the Shia sect of Islam are tomorrow and Friday and it is expected that the followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini will use the occasion for further dramatic demonstrations in Iran against the Americans.

On Sunday Iran will hold a referendum on the new Islamic constitution. When these events are safely over and the Shah is back in Mexico, it is hoped the hostages will be released.

According to observers here, there is one other clear-cut possible outcome to events. Some or all of the hostages may be murdered—either lynched by the mob in the American Embassy in Tehran or dispatched after a "trial" by the mullahs. If that happens, there will be an immediate and violent American reaction.

In either event, President Carter will act immediately, and presumably the terms of the actions are already decided. Another hypothesis is that the Shah will return to Mexico and the hostages will be kept imprisoned indefinitely.

However much the long-term national interest may decree that the United States should wait patiently on events, for fear that complete chaos would bring the Russians to the Gulf, a massacre of the hostages in Tehran would bring instant and violent retaliation.

A formidable American fleet is being assembled in the Arabian Sea, off the coast of Oman. Its most powerful unit, the aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk*, has not arrived yet. Ten ships, including the aircraft carrier *Midway*, are already in the Persian Gulf, accompanied by a cruiser, two destroyers and a frigate.

There are two equally compelling reasons for the conclusion that this force would be used against Iran. If the hostages were killed, the first is America's position in the world: What value would anyone put on an alliance with the United States if it did not respond to a direct attack on itself?

The second reason is domestic. There has been a change in American opinion. The isolationist, non-interventionist, left-wing tide, which reached its heights in the riots after the American invasion of Kampuchea, is running out rapidly.

This does not mean that the American people would be happy to occupy Iran. But at the very least they would demand the use of the United States Air Force in retaliation for any murder of the hostages.

If military action is taken, there is no shortage of targets. The Ayatollah would be wise to remove himself to a place of safety.

One reason being discussed here for a less dramatic reaction—destruction of the Abadan refinery, for example—is that the West's long-term hope for Iran must be the establishment of a moderate government (that is, one responsible and anti-Communist) which will have to depend on the armed forces for internal security.

There is little left of the Shah's proud armies, but it would not help the West's future position if the United States destroys whatever remains. Many soldiers have joined in the anti-American demonstrations, but the links between the Iranian armed forces and the United States were strong.

Minister ousted: The ruling Revolutionary Council in Tehran today appointed the director of state television and radio, Mr. Sadeq Oghabzadeh, as Foreign Minister, replacing Mr. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. Pars news agency reported.

American hostages held at the embassy here are allowed to walk in the compounds every day, take baths at least twice a week, and eat better than their captors, a leader of the students occupying the mission said.

Two weeks after the quashing of what President Albert Rene of the Seychelles said was an attempted coup, the islands are still tense. The President's Tanzanian troops check vehicles and their occupants at frequent intervals and many of those arrested are detained without charge.

The plot was attributed to "foreign businessmen wanting to make Mahé into a gambling and arms dealing centre". It was also alleged that there was a group of mercenaries waiting in Durbani to be flown in to support the usurpers. However, some prominent local people were arrested as well as foreigners.

Among those still held are Mr. Bernard Verlaque, the editor of *Weekend Life*, a newspaper closed down by the Government two weeks before the attempted coup, and Mr. Gerard Hoarau, the chief immigration officer. About 100 people are thought to be still in jail though the official figure is "over 80".

A curfew introduced on the day of the coup, which ran from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., has been relaxed and starts now at midnight. Even with that change, the tourist industry is being affected as reports spread of heavily armed troops on patrol and of a population apprehensive of the future.

Ordinary citizens are afraid

Iranians plan to auction off carpets, furniture and other treasures that the imperial family were forced to leave behind them

The Shah's palace yields up its gilded secrets

From Robert Fisk

Tehran, Nov 28

Richard III really did offer his kingdom for a horse, then the Shah of Iran seems to have paid for his freedom with a clutch of palaces, a heap of priceless Persian carpets, a Marc Chagall sketch, a 22-carat gold seventeenth-century model of a Chinese slave-ship, a two-storey library, a set of pianos that would send a music college into ecstasy, and two solid gold telephones.

Standing beneath the silver birches on the windy lawn of the Niyazan Palace today, an Iranian Government official made one of the more historic sales of the century sound like nothing but a momentary hiccup in the progress of the revolution—which is, perhaps, just what it will turn out to be.

"We will put the contents up for auction," he said. "Then the palaces will be turned into museums."

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Ordinary citizens are afraid



A bronze bust of the Shah, still over his palace library

when they set off for "a holiday" and exile in their personal Boeing 707.

Fate does not usually vouchsafe to ordinary folk the right to roam round a Shah's gilded palace, although strange things happen when mere mortals are let loose among such opulence. When the international press corps was gingerly invited into what Mr. Abdul Hassan Sadegh, the Iranian Minister of National Guidance, referred to with exaggerated irony as "the Shah's elum", there were scenes befitting the Goth's descent on Rome.

We tripped over piles of carpets and surged into the great library to discover what the Shah read in his spare time. There were leather-bound volumes of Voltaire, Verlaine, Flaubert, Plutarch, Shakespeare and Charles de Gaulle. The entire works of Winston Churchill rested against "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and biographies of Mahatma Gandhi.

My People by Abba Eban,

Salisbury
delegation
threatens
walk-out

New threats that the Salisbury Government team may walk out of the Rhodesia conference in London were made yesterday as Patriotic Front guerrilla leaders continued their talks with Britain.

One Salisbury Government delegation source said they were angry that Britain appeared to have launched into what could be a long round of detailed negotiations with the Patriotic Front about ceasefire arrangements after agreement had already been reached with Salisbury.

Dr Silas Mundawara, the Deputy Premier who leads the delegation after Bishop Abel Muzorewa's return to Rhodesia, wanted a meeting with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary.

"We want to make it clear that if there is much more delay we shall all go home," the source said. A British spokesman said nothing was known of any suggested meeting with Dr Mundawara.

Observers were inclined to regard talk of a walk-out as merely a repeat of several similar threats made in the early stages of the conference to put pressure on the other side.

Mr Nicholas Fenn, the conference spokesman, made it clear on Tuesday that the British were on guard against the talks with the Patriotic Front turning into a deliberate delaying exercise.

Lord Carrington was dealing with another important aspect of the Rhodesia problem yesterday when he saw Mr. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, who stopped off on his way to Germany.

The question of South African military involvement in Rhodesia was sure to have been raised, particularly in the light of Patriotic Front fears that South Africa might invade if the guerrillas' party won the new elections.

When Mr. Botha arrived at Heathrow airport he issued a warning that further delays in reaching a settlement would lead to an even greater escalation of violence in the region.

OVERSEAS

Doubts multiply over progress towards peace in Middle East

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Nov 28

Fresh doubts have arisen over the future of the Middle East peace process, particularly next year's scheduled normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt.

The doubts stem from a number of factors. Potentially the most damaging is the threatened expulsion of Mr. Bessam Shaka, the Arab Mayor of Nabulus, whose appeal went before a military tribunal in Ramle prison today, the thirteenth day of his hunger strike.

However, the Israeli authorities might reverse their much-criticized decision have faded, and Mr. Shaka's expulsion to Jordan will take place within the next week if legal moves on his behalf fail.

"Already one senior Egyptian Minister has telephoned a warning to the Israeli Government of 'serious consequences' if the deportation goes ahead. The warning is generally regarded as referring to both the continuing negotiations to both the Palestinian autonomy and the projected move towards normalization.

According to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, no definite plans have been made yet either side about the mutual exchange of ambassadors due to take place on February 26 next year. A detailed letter on the subject, sent by the Ministry's director-general two weeks ago, has not received a reply so far.

Dr. Joseph Burg, a senior member of the Israeli coalition cabinet, admitted publicly today that the expulsion of Mr. Shaka could damage future attempts to bring the Palestinians into the autonomy negotiations. Dr. Burg is the Minister in charge of Israel's negotiating team on autonomy.

Leading Israeli commentators are becoming convinced that Egypt will soon attempt to forge a direct link between advance towards normalization and

progress achieved in the autonomy negotiations affecting 1,100,000 Arabs on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Any such move will be bitterly resented by the Israelis.

Even before the Shaka affair, Western diplomats were predicting that a marked change in Egypt's attitude towards Israel would become apparent early next year. As one explained: "By the end of January, when President Sadat has got back 70 per cent of the Sinai and the important oil fields, we can expect him to adopt a much tougher line."

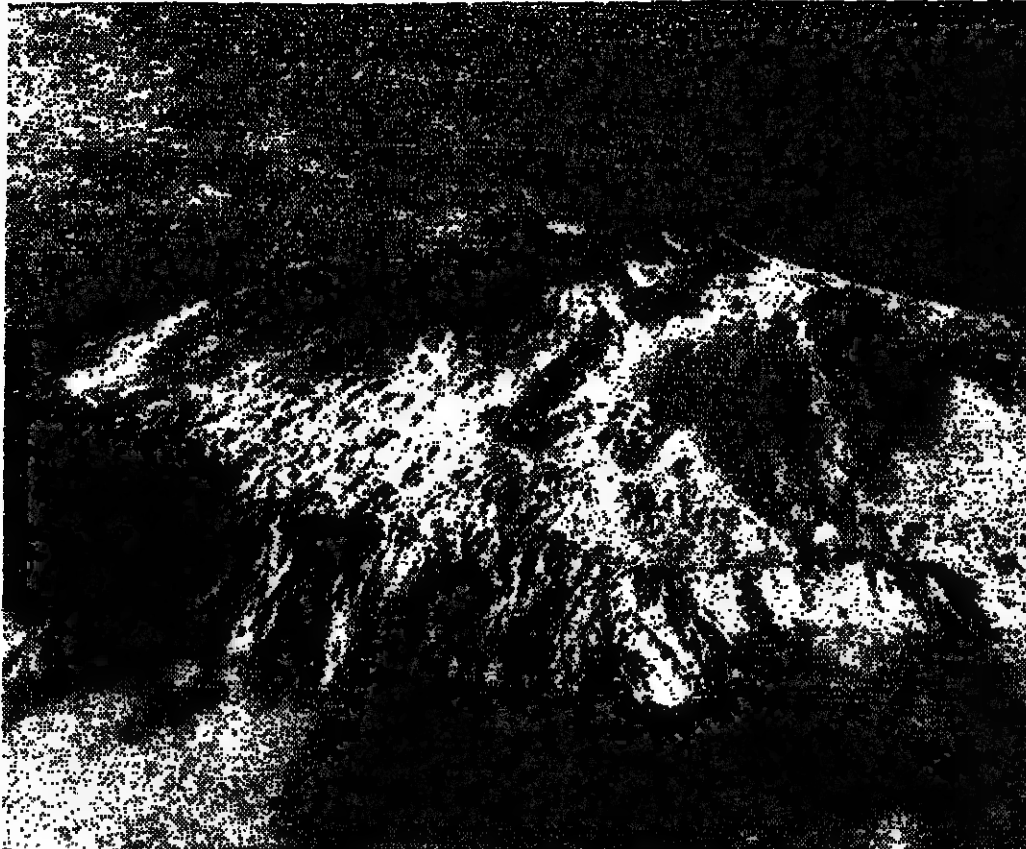
Egyptian anger at attempts to banish the Nabulus Mayor has been increased by other aspects of Israeli Government policy which have emerged simultaneously. Most significant was the Cabinet's decision to how to right-wing pressure and announce a massive Jewish settlement scheme for the occupied territories.

Middle East observers point out that Egypt's continuing isolation in the Arab world has made it more likely that it will adopt soon a stricter line both in the autonomy talks and the practical issues of normalization.

This was illustrated this week by the blocking of the Egyptian news agency, Mena, from membership of the new coordination committee of the non-aligned news agencies pool, and by an apparent switch in policy by Sudan, one of the three Arab states which did not break diplomatic relations with Egypt over the signing of the treaty with Israel.

After showing consistent support for the treaty, both the main state-controlled Sudanese newspapers changed tack this week and dismissed it as the "unilateral deal" only serving Israeli objectives.

One daily paper, *Al-Sahafa*, wrote: "The unilateral solution did not penetrate to the crux of the problem, nor did it address itself to resolving the Palestinian problem."



Mount Erebus on which the New Zealand DC10 crashed. It is on Ross Island in McMurdo Sound.

The DC10's catalogue of disaster

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The crash of the New Zealand Airways DC10 is the fourth big air disaster in which this type of airliner has been involved since it first flew in 1970.

In 1974, all 346 people on board a Turkish Airlines DC10 were killed when the aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from Paris for London. It was the world's worst aviation disaster at the time, although the death toll was exceeded when two Boeing 747s, owned by Pan American and KLM, collided on the runway at Tenerife.

The Paris crash was traced to a faulty fastening on a cargo hatch which blew out with the internal pressure as the aircraft climbed. The pressure collapsed part of the cabin floor, cutting flying control lines.

Three of the other four DC10 crashes have taken place this year. In May, an airliner belonging to American Airlines came down at Chicago O'Hare airport, killing all 273 on board, after one of its three engines broke off when the flight was only a few hundred feet off the runway.

It was the worst disaster in United States aviation history, and it led to the grounding for five weeks of all DC10s after minutes cracks were found in the engine-mounting pylons on some aircraft.

McDonnell Douglas, the manufacturers, strenuously denied charges that the cracks had been caused by faulty basic design. There were allegations of incorrect maintenance

techniques by the airline. American was said to have used fork-lift trucks to remove the engine assembly, so producing the cracking.

Nothing that the DC10 was on a sightseeing flight, as recalled observers yesterday, recalled similarities between this flight and that some years ago when a BOAC Boeing 707 flew close to Mount Fuji, in Japan, and was torn apart by ferocious winds.

The 300 DC10s flying with 42 world airlines, among them the British carriers Laker, British Caledonian and British Airways (which leases one New Zealand Airways aircraft for a limited operation between Britain and North America) continued to operate as normal yesterday.

Between them they carry around one million passengers each week. A DC10 owned by the American airline, National, was grounded safely on Heathrow airport, London, yesterday with 182 people when an engine failed soon after take-off.

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Soviet regime assiduously cultivates patriotic memories to justify its present policies

Where the Second World War seems like only yesterday

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Nov 28

14th century on a freezing March morning in 1943. The punitive SS battalion called "the Black Death" herded all the inhabitants of the Byelorussian village of Khatyn, 145 people including 75 children, into a barn, doused it with petrol and set it alight. Machine guns were trained on the inferno to shoot anyone who escaped. The village was then looted, set alight and abandoned.

But one man was not in Khatyn at the time. When Joseph Kaminski returned he found his young son still alive among the charred bodies. He picked him up and he died in his father's arms.

Today a harrowing bronze statue of Kaminski carrying his dying boy and staring in blank horror straight ahead stands at the entrance to Khatyn. But no one lives in the village any more although 14 million people have visited it in the past 10 years. Khatyn has been rebuilt, as a memorial to its dead and to the death of 145 other villages similarly destroyed for ever during the three-year German occupation.

Where each house stood, four cement beams now represent the first row of the wooden construction and a rebuilt chimney stack with a bell in it marks each site. The stacks bear plaques with the names of the families who lived there. Once every 30 seconds the bells of all the houses ring out together to the forest across the river.

Byelorussia lost one in every four people during the Second World War. At Khatyn three birch trees have been planted in a square. Where the fourth should grow, burns the eternal flame. A large monument to a concentration camp will run down one side of the village. Behind bars in niches of varying sizes are the names of the large or small camps to which the people were taken, or children bled to death to provide blood for the German Army.

For the older generation of

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For the older generation of

Namibian party insists on Swapo disarming

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Nov 28

Political leaders in South-West Africa (Namibia) today made a new condition for acceptance of the United Nations proposal for the ending of apartheid in that territory. The condition was that Swapo (South-West African People's Organisation) should be disarmed.

Mr. Dirk Mudge, leader of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance party which controls the Windhoek Legislative Assembly, revealed this after talks with Mr. Bernard Fourie, the South African Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Fourie is in Windhoek with a mission to discuss the planned 50-kilometre deep demilitarised zone along the borders with Angola and Zambia.

Although the visit was supposed to be purely political, it was the territory of the South African Government's views, in the event Mr. Fourie and his team met only representatives of the alliance party.

Mr. Mudge said after the talks that the two were aware of the United Nations plan which remained unclear and about which his party remained sceptical.

It was not clear whether Swapo guerrillas would be disarmed before the election, he said, and his party wanted assurances on this issue regardless of whether the Swapo forces returned to Namibia or remained in Angola and Zambia.

The peace plan envisaged also that South African troops in Namibia should be confined to two bases and reduced in strength to 1,500 men. There has been no discussion so far about the South Africans should be disarmed.

Mr. Mudge said the alliance party would hold the South African Government to its promise to be responsible for the security of Namibia and would accept a settlement only if South Africa could guarantee safety and security in terms of a peace plan.

He said that Mr. Sam Nujoma, the Swapo leader, had contradicted himself so often since the Geneva talks that any future agreement to be responsible for the security of Namibia would be a farce.

Mr. Mudge said that the political leaders of Namibia and his party had no objection to South Africa carrying on with negotiations.

Mr. Mudge was scathingly critical of the plan for the 50-kilometre deep demilitarised zone. It would cover an area of 140,000 square kilometres and would embrace the whole of the Eastern Caprivi area. The party, he said, had serious reservations about the practicability of the plan.

It also objected to the latest proposal to include an air force unit, the United Nations would be responsible for the ground, they will not be able to distinguish between a terrorist and an ordinary Ovambo. How do they expect to be able to do so from the air?" he asked.

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President Moi streamlines Cabinet for the 1980s

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Nov 28

President Daniel arap Moi today announced extensive changes in his Cabinet, creating new Ministries for Energy and the Environment, and moving Defence into the President's own portfolio.

Mr. James Gichuru, the former Defence Minister, becomes one of three Ministers of State under the President.

Announcing the changes in a broadcast, President Moi emphasized the need to streamline the government machine and increase efficiency. He also announced a large number of changes among senior civil servants.

"The 1980s will be difficult years, mainly because of external forces," he said, pointing out that the new government framework was designed to meet changed conditions.

None of the seven ministers reshuffled in the elections on November 8 is included among the 10 members of Parliament nominated today by President Moi. All the ministers who remained their parliamentary seats remain in the Cabinet. Mr. Mwai Kibaki remains Vice-President and Finance Minister.

The new Foreign Minister is Dr. Robert Ouko, a Luo from Western Kenya who was formerly Minister for Community Affairs. The former Foreign Minister, Dr. Munya A. Waiyaki, becomes Minister of Energy.

Mr. Philip Leakey, the only white Kenyan to be elected since independence, becomes Assistant Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment. Dr. Julia Ojiambo replaces the only woman cabinet minister. She is the Minister of Basic Education.

The former Education Ministry is divided into two, with new Ministries of Basic Education and Higher Education.

The regional balance remains similar to that of the previous Cabinet, and special care appears to have been taken to ensure full representation for the large Luo tribe.

Mr. Oginga Odinga, the former Vice-President, was today appointed chairman of the Cotton Board, a government appointment. He was one of five people who were barred from standing in the elections.

All five were at one time detained after forming the short-lived opposition party, the Kenya People's Union (KPU), more than ten years ago.

Mr. Oloo Aringo, a former KPU official, who was allowed to stand for election, has been appointed Deputy Minister for Higher Education.

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Botha anger wins little sympathy

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, Nov 28

Mr. Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, has reacted like a cornered lion to newspaper reports that he was involved in a barbecue in South-West Africa at which two rare antelope were cooked and eaten.

There are also reports that big game is being exterminated in safaris mounted in Army helicopters and in which important people have taken part.

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THE ARTS

Coppola's vision of a cinematic apocalypse

The day I flew into San Francisco to talk to Coppola he had just concluded a deal to buy the biggest studio in Hollywood. The eager film buff had become a mogul; the man, just turned 40, who had been bankrupted, discarded and treated as a hack was on his way to become one of the American success stories of the late twentieth century; *Godfather Part II*, and, it is projected, *Apocalypse Now* (which opens in London on December 18), will be among the most often grossing movies of all time.

All of them commanded serious and controversial critical attention. And Coppola had made them against the policies of the big corporations, with subjects either predictable or unthinkable or, some thought, amoral and—the breaking of the ultimate rule and taboo—with his own money: or rather mortgage. He pumps new blood into the cliché of the "land of opportunity". Yet, within an hour of so of having concluded the deal which lands him on top of the celluloid heap, he jumped into a plane and headed out of the film capital, back home to San Francisco, perfectly happy to sit and talk half the night about all aspects of the movies.

He is well equipped to do so. He was the first film student from UCLA to get a director's ticket and at an absurdly young age; his screenplay for *The Godfather* won him an Oscar; he has produced several of his own films and those of his friends and helped with the music; and the whole technology of the enterprise fascinates him. He can discuss, with experience and some authority, the latest sound-deck, the films of little-known directors, the organization of worldwide distributors to finance a project and the detail of business on a set with actors. It is no wonder that he has always been the head of a pack. Little wonder, either, that the comprehensive range of talents regularly invokes the rather breathless reaction typified by what I have written so far.

We met in his office in downtown San Francisco, away from the hills and acres of those handsome houses which the local inhabitants revere in conversation and enshrine annually in fresh paint. Coppola's block is a Victorian triangle of green brick and red-tiled roofs. His own pad, at the top, is a copy of the state of the Union, with a large, ornate, and all the floors below are stripped for action—stairways, schedules and daily appointments clipped to the wall—and stashed with the latest machines for viewing.

Elder replaced by Friend

As a result of the appointment of Mark Elder as music director of the English National Opera, he has had to withdraw from conducting a tour by the Nash Ensemble as part of the Contemporary Music Network. His place will be taken by a colleague, ENO's Lionel Friend. The tour, with works by Ravel, Maurice Delage, Gordon Ross and others, will visit Bristol on January 17, and then Birmingham, Hull, Birmingham, York, Liverpool, Rosehill, Carlisle, Leeds and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

Rambert turns to Maxwell Davies

A new work by Richard Alston, using two pieces of music by Peter Maxwell Davies, *Hymns and Steadman Dances*, will be presented by the part of the company by Ballet Rambert, which opens in Manchester on January 21. Other works in the programme for the tour include a revival of Glen Tetley's *Rag Dance*, which was originally created for the company in 1971, and Tetley's new ballet, *The Tempest*. The company will visit Manchester, Leicester, Stratford-upon-Avon and York.

New plays at Royal Exchange

The 1980 spring-summer season at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, starts on January 17 with a comedy by Marcel Achard, *Rolla*, starring Leo McKern. From February 28 to April 12 the company will present the premiere of Ronald Harwood's play *The Dresser*, with McKern and Tom Courtenay. Gerard McLean's *Blood Black and Gold* will receive its premiere on April 21.

Croydon Beggars

John Gay's *The Beggars Opera* will be seen at the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon, from December 3 to 8, with Edward Woodward and Michele Dore in leading roles.

ALEC McCOWEN

PERFORMANCE OF BRILLIANCE

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Francis Coppola (right) and a scene from *Apocalypse Now* of an assault on a Viet-Cong village

dubbing, mixing and manufacturing films. *Apocalypse Now* has an enormously complicated soundtrack and it was put together in the office.

Coppola himself is a bearded and restless. There is still something of the enthusiastic schoolboy about him—he wanted to be a physicist when he was young and his love and knowledge of machines is evident everywhere. *The Conversation* in effect started a tape-recording system. But there is also this drive of energy which releases itself in assertions about what he will do. It was that which drew the others up to San Francisco in the mid-sixties.

There, in the middle of the hippy kingdom of Cockayne, Coppola set up shop on nothing at all and other students from UCLA came to join him in his dream, which was to construct a bohemian way of life. He wanted to get together a bunch of men with the same ideals and make small personal movies well away from the clutches and indifference of Hollywood. It was a gentle, flower-power dream. The young man came: the tentative commercial early films were made, and then by some sort of alchemy which always heads back to Coppola these same idealistic cineastes turned out *Jaws*, *Close Encounters*, *Star Wars*, *American Graffiti*, *Taxi Driver* and *The Godfather*, soaring above Hollywood and reaching a world-wide public.

Success split the group but Coppola dug into San Francisco and another group has been brought into existence. This time firmly inside that green triangular office.

Apocalypse Now came out of the original group. John Milus met a number of Vietnam veterans in the late sixties. Their stories of the cowboy antics and drug trips, of play boy lunacies and private fantasies operating in the South-East Asia conflict were so unbelievable that Coppola asked Milus to write about it—for George Lucas to direct. It landed up as a Coppola property.

He was shocked at the way a lot of so-called intellectuals look at a movie should be, of that subject matter rather than look at what the movie is. The political morality of *Apocalypse Now* is understandably controversial, however, and will no doubt stir up consciences and columnists when it opens here in a fortnight.

Where he relaxed most was where he could go most into detail—talking about his decision to make the characters and so the actors in the film submit to the overall drama, for example, imposing a held-down and subdued style on them: fitting them into genre film casting while asking them to take part in the personal drama this film became.

We talked about *The Rain People* which he made on the hoof—pulling the whole crew into two or three vans and shooting it as they motored across America: that, too, came out of a direct personal drama. And his visions of a global electronic future for the industry: "Once cinema becomes all electronic then you're not dealing with a movement on a piece of celluloid—you're dealing with pure energy that can be transmitted through the world instan-

taneously..." Again he puts his career where his mind is: his next film will be shot and edited electronically.

He is full of well-worked-out rules for himself: "The writer is the key figure." "The way films traditionally reach a large amount of people is to be a very particular genre film done well." "Basically the way I work on films—it's talent casting." Once you get an actor on his track, the director is purely his eyes. Alexander Korda is his current hero.

I left, and the bug buttons opened the gold-looking lift-doors. Coppola, his son and his producer were still pottering around a drawing board like men in a laboratory fussing over a delicate experiment.

It is tempting to end with a story he told about his father—a flautist. When he was a young man he was playing and Prokofiev was conducting and Coppola's father asked him why he had written the flute part in such a high register whereas it would have been easy on the piccolo. Prokofiev said: "Because I want you to strain for it." Coppola approves that story. His father has just composed the music for *Apocalypse Now*. And, another thing about Coppola senior, just as important: "He was always buying and selling houses. I never stayed any place more than a few months. I never had a group of friends. Dad was a wheeler-dealer as well as being a musician." Say no more.

Melvin Bragg interviews Coppola on *The South Bank Show* (LWT) next Sunday at 10.30 pm.

The ethic of work

Irma La Douce
Shaftesbury

Ned Chaillet

Irma La Douce, when you get down to it, is simply a cosy little musical about the work ethic. Irma's work is a bit more demanding than some, and she apparently gives it her full attention, but when she falls in love in the first scene with the naive law student who gallantly protects her from her own protector by waving his law book, her "bourgeois" emotion momentarily interrupts her career.

The girl has principles, however, and because "you can't live if you don't work", she stops indulging in pleasure and returns to her work content. He impersonates a client who will pay her 10,000 francs a day for her exclusive services and pays her by recycling the money that she gives him every evening.

It gets wearing, particularly when he has to take a job as a floor polisher simply to pay the bar bill that comes from his new reputation as the best musician in Paris. When Irma's affections begin to move from Nestor-Frigo to his kindly impersonation, Nestor takes the dramatic step of apparently killing Oscar. That puts him on to Devil's Island, from which he will escape, and it should come as no surprise that it will be the tax collector who finally proves to be a solid citizen innocent of murder.

What comes as a surprise to me is how flimsy the whole thing appears. In what should have been my formative years I saw *Patricia Brook's* original production of the musical and it is neither that nor Elizabeth Seal's performance that I remember but the later non-musical film.

Margaret Monro's music does not, for instance, cry out to be whistled. It does, from time to time, allow dancers to kick their legs high. The book and lyrics by Julian More, David Heneker and Monty Norman do not stick in the memory. They do occasionally stick in the gut, as in the last song, "Christmas Child", devotedly sung as a hymn to Irma's baby, but depending for its success on quite another child's nativity.

The whole thing seems to have been mounted as a tribute to the legs of Helen Geller who first showed them in London in *Bubbling Brown Sugar*. She also brings an interesting voice to the part, rich in the lower registers, but though she is the only woman in the cast of 17, hers is not the most demanding role. That belongs rather to Charles Dance in the double act of Nestor and Oscar and his best moment comes when he is alone, arguing between his two selves.

Philharmonia/Rattle Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

To hear Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto is necessarily to be amazed that it could ever have been dismissed by Nikolay Rubinstein as unplayable. But to hear it played as it was on Tuesday, by the Bulgarian pianist Juliana Markova, is almost to be persuaded that it is too easy. One expects some sense of momentous strain and effort in the passages of crackling octaves one expects the soloist to be at least a little weary by the battle royal. Miss Markova, however, triumphed as easily that she lost for her some of the glories of triumph, bouncing up the keyboard at the end as if the whole thing had been child's play.

Yet this was not the outstanding performance it could have been, largely because Miss Markova was preoccupied with her own part to the exclusion of listening to what the orchestra, the Philharmonia under Simon Rattle, was up to. Time and again, she failed to pick up interesting ideas. When Mr Rattle played the second subject of the finale with a little rhythmic difference, she ignored his suggestion and the effect was not of stimulating contrast, but merely of lack of communication.

Strangely, this worked quite well in the slow movement, where Miss Markova's soft tones were a night landscape lit by the more brilliant woodwind, and where the faster, central section found the rhythm quick as alert and characterful as that of the orchestra.

The concerto was framed by opposing French works, Fauré's *Dolly Suite* and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*. Mr Rattle, however, almost made of Fauré a preparation for Tchaikovsky, with such exaggerations of expressive detail that the "Tendresse" movement became full-blooded "Amour". This was a little disconcerting at first, but then it came to seem that these adult emotions, crafted on to the music, were being purified in a child's understanding.

In the Berlioz, of course, Mr Rattle's expressiveness and his keen edge did nothing but good. The entire work was made a tense, desperately alive chart of feelings, almost an orchestral recitation, with pleading strings to be answered by imposing, masterful brass, by sonorous percussion or else by a very human woodwind ensemble.

The reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

THE OUTSIDER

use he believed in, but did not understand.
a country he loved, but did not know.



THE 1980 SPRING-SUMMER SEASON

at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

starts on January 17 with a comedy by Marcel Achard, *Rolla*, starring Leo McKern.

From February 28 to April 12 the company will present the premiere of Ronald Harwood's play *The Dresser*, with McKern and Tom Courtenay.

Gerard McLean's *Blood Black and Gold* will receive its premiere on April 21.

THE SCREEN ON THE HILL

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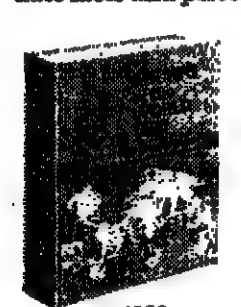
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SPECIAL REPORTS

Special Reports to appear in January, 1980, are:

JANUARY

- 7 Continental Motoring
- 15 Arab Construction
- 23 Singapore
- 25 Audio Visual Aids
- 28 Eire

The light brigade

The Oxford Book of American Light Verse (Oxford, £7.50), though frankly a bit of a mess, contains quite a few pleasant surprises, and one of the earliest is to find the sixth President of the United States exploring the possibilities of drag. Others include Vladimir Nabokov consuming a neighbour at dinner ("I want you, she murmured, to eat Dr James"), "The Feast of the Monkeys" by John Philip Sousa, John Hollander's elegy for the divine sonneteer, Margaret Fuller ("Now that high, oft-affronted bosom heaves/A final sigh, crushed by the wrecker's ball"), Oscar Hammerstein writing bitterly about money and starvation in *Allegro*, Anthony Hecht on Matthew ("The Dover Bitch") and Roy Blount Jr on a story in *Newsweek* about Wayne Sleep:

A dreamlike sleep
By England's Sleep I
He didn't doze
He did a-dooze
His legs arose
In caricature.

Perfect, too, is Ambrose Bierce's definition of an egotist as "A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me". But such pleasures take some finding. Margaret Klumpp Amis collected *The New Oxford Book of Light Verse* in 1977, he omitted American poets almost entirely—partly from inclination, perhaps, but chiefly because his anthology, like William Harmon had already been planned to complement his: Auden's Anglo-American territory in the original *Oxford Book of Light Verse* of 1939, now reprinted as a paperback (Oxford, £3.50), was being cut in two. All anthologies conduct campaigns in taste—the more personal the more campaigning—and as Amis dourly radical from the populist turn of Auden so, from the start, does Harmon take issue with Amis.

The Professor of English at Chapel Hill is a genial enough, but irredeemably donnish and windy, and instead of Amis's rough, terse and wholly consistent apologetics, Harmon first attempts, not too successfully, to define the ways in which American Light Verse is peculiarly American and then writes, of the dark, destructive side of comedy: "This Dionysian, anarchic idiosyncrasy of misrule seems to reverse the pre-social and pre-logical individual—as dear to American conservatives as to Jean-Jacques Rousseau—the individual who can turn every solemn civic utterance into rude and incoherent parody".

For heaven's sake. None of this would matter more than the normal difference between dissimulation and candour did not a sense of purpose in the choice of the poems themselves prove equally elusive. There is simply too much: the vision blurs. Amis compressed more than 400 years of English poetry into 121 poets and 329 pages; Harmon, with half that number of years to work on, takes half as many poets again and 528 pages to make his choice. Inevitably, and unnecessarily, the general level of verse is far lower than in the English collection, and some of it—restricting the representation and diminishing the impact of selected like "Orpheus C. Kerr", John Greenleaf Whittier, James Randolph, Phyllis McGinley and Ogden Nash—should not be there at all.

One problem when choosing the poems for an anthology of this kind is that America lacks the received tradition of High Verse—no Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth or Pope—which Light Verse needs to kick against and take off. What she does possess, or so it looks from over here, is a rich nineteenth-century folk poetry, and a twentieth-century skill in the metropolitan lyric. The latter, it is with its handling of these truly American forms that *The Oxford Book of American Light Verse* seems both timorous and unbalanced.



The boy stood on the burning deck,
His feet were full of blisters;
The flames came up and burned his pants,
And now he wears his sister's.

Anon, chosen by Christopher Logue and illustrated by Bill Tidy.

True, we get the whole of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis", there is "Little Brown Jug" and a couple of cruder changes from the Civil War, but apart from "Clementine" and "Starving to Death on a Government Claim", not much from that more brilliant and disturbing Geoffrey Grigson also provides a rich and idiosyncratic choice of sometimes unfamiliar stuff, by among others, Christian Morgenstern, (Grigson's translation), Daniel Klumpp, Charles Gros Robert Desnos and George du Maurier all in French, and a huge body of work by Mr Amis's least favourite poet, Anon (e.g. "Oh, that my lungs could beat like lightning bolts", c. 1855). Many might also be comic, popular or light, but that a dark ingredient of insubstantial chickens the brew. "Little birds are dishing 'Warley and well'".

It is hard to imagine either Oxford or Faber blessing an anthology of Silly Verse, but for devotees of the genre and for gigglers of all ages *The Children's Book of Comic Verse* (Barnard, £3.50), assembled by Michael Ratcliffe, is a treasure of much silliness and joy. Here is a world trembling with the temptations of outrage and disobedience, of knickers and wigs and bad manners at table of murdering minnows and richly deserved fusts. Christopher Logue has included Swift, Lear, Carroll, Eliot, Belloc, Gilbert and Sullivan, but also Charles Henry Ross, Charles Edward Caryl, Laura E. Richards and Albert de Vere. The book is a little overdone by the lion, Mr Ratcliffe, but both Mr and Mrs Ratcliffe bottom were sinking a pint round the corner at the time of the selection. The grown-ups we know in this children's world to be pale and starchy, with pin-pricked eyes at the top of each snout, like Bisto-kids savouring the flavour of punk.

Michael Ratcliffe

A role for the future

The Soldiers
An Anatomy of the British Army
By Henry Stanhope
(Hamish Hamilton, £9.95)

Let nobody be discouraged by the rather bleak appearance of this book, with the ugly lettering on its spine and the subtitles in heavy black print. Digging its pages; these last, in fact, are helpful, although forbidding at first glance. The book is easy to read, and stuffed with accurate and up-to-date information about the Army as it is today: its tasks, its problems and its organization. Its authoritative tone need surprise nobody. The author has been for almost ten years Defence Correspondent of *The Times*, a sympathetic and well-informed ally of an Army whose existence he sometimes seems to be rather thin on the ground; but whatever his sympathies, his approach is objective. Assuming that the bulk of the book has been written during his enforced sabbatical from *The Times*, one can legitimately say that its appearance is some compensation for his 11 months' absence from our breakfast-tables.

Now for some fun with a post-shooter: I would not myself have spelt "Field-Marshal Montgomery" with two Ls, or described his size as "petite", and I dispute that the Suez operation was "badly managed" at least militarily. I witnessed it in person at close hand, in the ridiculous appointment of Director of Psychological Warfare, with all the interest of an erstwhile Director of Combined Operations (Military) from years earlier, and thought its execution remarkably efficient. But Suez was 23 years ago, and this

book is chiefly concerned with the present. Mr Stanhope sets out with clarity the problems of an Army for whom the word "Sisyphus" would be an appropriate telegraphic address. Its pre-war role of "imperial policing" combined with preparedness for a major war was dead easy when compared with the complications of today when the needs of Nato have to be reconciled with those of Northern Ireland, quite apart from sorties to Hong Kong or Belize or Cyprus. Units have to switch from one to the other for brief periods. Four months is considered to be the longest tour in Northern Ireland responsible for an unaccompanied battalion to serve, with its long hours under great stress and often in rough conditions. The author brings out clearly the additional problems created by the high proportion of conscripts of soldiers with wives and families: their accommodation, welfare, schooling, and the question of evacuation from Germany in the event of a major war.

Life is not made easier by the continual obligation of criticism, ranging from the proportion of GNP allotted to Defence in general to the alleged misbehaviour of troops under provocation. It is wasted breath to preach to those who will always grudge every penny spent on Defence, or to those who believe all soldiers to be stupid and licentious, and willing tools of political oppression. But for people who are genuinely interested, as they ought to be, in how the Defence allocation of the Budget is spent; in the dangerous economies that have to be made; in the daily life of the soldier (of whatever rank)

and his family with its mixture of joys, tribulations, frequent separation and reuniting; and anxieties: for responsible people such as these, Mr Stanhope's book is required and absorbing reading.

It covers a wide field: boy soldiers and bomb disposal, cadets and commissions, deserters and detention barracks, pay and postings, weapons and welfare; but there are some curious omissions, with the chief in the Infantry of the Line. Under the heading "The Regiments", he deals at length with the Household Brigade, the Rifles, the Parachute Regiment, the Gurkhas, the SAS, and many of the Corps; but he makes no more than a passing mention of the county Regiments, and of the strength of their territorial attachments, whose traditions have enabled them to survive most of the frustrations of recent years. The Scottish Regiments have been more fortunate than the others, in that they were able to challenge successfully the attempt to merge their identities into "large regiments", and to remain independent, to the immeasurable benefit of their recruiting. This sort of continuity helps that stability which is always at risk in such conditions as have obtained over the past 30 years, and represents a continuing act of faith when old loyalties are under strain.

The greatest strain under which the Army has laboured and is continuing to labour is the sense of being "pushed around" to use a euphemism for a more familiar but less elegant military phrase. The manner in which he allows this point to make itself is a major virtue of Mr Stanhope's excellent and timely book.

Bernard Fergusson

Special relationships

Governing the BBC

By Asa Briggs
(BBC, £10)

A Seamless Robe

By Charles Curran
(Collins, £8.95)

What was the *Robinson* Case? In a public opinion poll this question would be lucky to get one right answer; in a show-and-tell, a *Mastermind* competitor should do better. Because this is one of nine case studies chosen for close study by the Briggs in a book which will be equally reading for anyone interested in how the BBC works. It was the earliest of the nine to occur: "The Question of Ulster". The latest, forty years ago, from which the book illustrates Government pressure on the BBC to proceed with a planned programme.

In 1932 the BBC's Chairman, having reluctantly yielded to Cabinet pressure, to broadcast by 1934-1935 a *British Commanders* series, wrote to Ministers protesting that such intervention in "a detail of its work" undermined the BBC's autonomy, repeatedly in Parliament. "The Corporation is a new and important experiment," he wrote, "in the management and control of public utility." Its progress "should be watched with closest attention not only in this country but in most countries. Its detachment from the government of the day has been a cardinal element in its international prestige."

In 1979 the BBC cannot be said to be new; but it might still be said to fit one dictionary definition of experiment—"a procedure adopted without knowing just how it will work." The *Robinson* Case, a Government White Paper proposed changes in the management and control of the BBC, widely recognized in the press

and elsewhere as a threat to that self-same detachment from the Government, which the White Paper once more affirmed in principle. Thus BBC history repeats itself. Saved at the bell by the change of Government in 1979, the BBC can never afford to conclude that anything less than its own eternal vigilance will be the price of its freedom. Even that may not always be enough.

The British broadcasting experiment is still watched with close attention abroad. True, it has not been copied in as many other countries as claimed possible in 1932. But its constitution is of interest wherever the shortcomings of commercial broadcasting systems and services directed by governments are known, as well as in countries which, in preference to either, have applied their own particular brand of Quango. The demonstration that even in such a complicated and controversial business as broadcasting there is a middle way, which makes it possible for a government to avoid being either too much or too little involved, has a constitutional value, beyond broadcast and beyond Britain.

Only back has a convenient, searching value. Asa Briggs is uniquely well-placed to think of such questions. His experience for which he does not provide the necessary foundation. How are the Governors appointed? How many and who have they been? What do they do and what have been their most testing experiences? How do they relate to the Director-General? What changes have taken place?

Conclusions are generally left to the reader to draw. The title is "Governing the BBC" not "How to govern it". The author is a most skilful marshal of information rather than a philosophical characterist. For good measure he describes in an epilogue his relations with the two chairmen under whom he served, one "a man who was perfectly ready to throw his weight about" the other, last self-assertive. Small wonder that this relationship has not always been easy in the BBC. Chairmen and managing directors don't always hit it off when they make news and bolts, let alone when their stock-in-trade is ideas and their stamping ground the sensitive edges of a restless, pluralist society.

Oliver Whitley

Protean genius recorded

Picasso: The Cubist Years 1907-1919

A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings and Related Works

By Pierre Dailly and Joan Mee

(Thames & Hudson, £60)

The Life and Work of J. M. W. Turner

By Andrew Wilton

(Academy) £45.00, £49.50 (hardback)

£45 (hbk December 31)

Picasso, of course, is the subject of one of the most intricate and exhaustive catalogues devoted to any artist, living (as he was, very much so, when it began) or dead: the ongoing and still, at 30 volumes, incomplete work of Christian Zervus. The book by Pierre Dailly and Joan Mee is a rather different enterprise: it concentrates on a mere nine years of Picasso's lengthy working life. Illustrates everything distinguishably (though sometimes the photographs obtained are not of the best) and links the accumulation of factual information to a subtle and sometimes very original critical essay by Pierre Dailly going into the evolution of an artistic cubist and what effect had on his career as a whole. This occupies nearly half of the book; the other half, the catalogue proper, has the advantage over Zervus in certain particulars, especially in being able to link and illustrate works which have only recently come to light (as a rule in the Picasso Estate) which will pre-empt any waiting to wait for another supplementary volume of the Zervus. Like the same authors' previous *Picasso: The Blue and Rose Periods*, the book defines the thinking of our generation, and the phase in the art of the twentieth century as well as of one of its greatest artists.

Andrew Wilton's book on another protean genius has, curiously enough, much the same layout and basic idea as the Picasso. Turner's art is considered in an intelligent critical essay which occupies the first half of the book, well illustrated in colour and black-and-white; the second half is given over to a briefer catalogue of Turner's oil paintings and watercolours (separately listed), amounting to 41 oils and more than 1,800 watercolours during more than 60 years of working life, as against Picasso's nearly 900, mostly substantial, in the nine cubist years. By no means all of even the oils are illustrated, and those that are seldom show much of their quality in the tiny space allowed each. But if we regard the catalogue as an appendix to the main body of the book, it is undeniably a useful one, while if we regard the text as a suggestion of the pill then undoubtedly it makes the medicine go down very smoothly.

John Russell Taylor

Reviews next week include: Michael Ratcliffe on A Tale of Five Cities by John Airdagh; Philip Ziegler on Napoleon III and Eugénie by Jasper Ridley; J.C. Trewin on Playing the Empire by David Holloway.

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New Books/two

alf a marriage

David Williams

My Leading Lady
by Victor
Murray, £8.50

were invited to read Shakespeare and Anna were both in one book how would you like to read the lady, who is 67 as opposed to his 52 years? There is a wait for an answer one. But the same questionist nudges us as through Harvey Pitcher's admissible book. It is to course, that he plays us. Chekhov's *Leading Lady*, his title, so it's right, as should hold the stage— it is the does for a very me, because she lived ninety-first year of her life for 55 years after whom she knew for from 1898 and was for only just over a year.

She survived Stalin, underlines her talent for survival, and lived on a Khrushchevian thaw, in 1953. he same, it's Chekhov are really interested in it, and, I believe, a man as well—something ur. Mr Pitcher's des- of Chekhov's hesitant to a marriage and leading pursuit of it is ne on Olga's side. Chekhov would have preferred to sleep with her now n when she could spare f from the Moscow Art to come. his invalid hideout in this spring not from any ce on Chekhov's part to a honest woman of her, nly from his certain lge that he was by 1898, f man. Chekhov was d as a doctor for much lter; he didn't want to in burden of long-drawn- pless nursing on a healthy young woman.

HING UP

Crime

lazed with pleasure over I have just put down, I en about to call it "a story I will remember ooks come by electric " and then I have amonished by a tiny ying "Yes, but how do w?"

however, I can call in id. So I have taken the es of the dozen books I have treated at length e asked myself "What remember about them

arly January I read Test by Sara George (lan, £3.95). And, yes, I still have a strong n of a long train a journey, a gritty feel-driving for hundreds of long straight, freeways steady sun. There was too. It featured a young actress. But of it I can- nothing more. Nor does t. It held me while I d from the book I got and vivid impression of America.

My February choice, e Me About England by Ferris (Weidenfeld, £. £4.95). I remain a strong impression of Britain. Though in acidity there is a feel-dab permissiveness. Perhaps not the whole truth, but truth I am sure. Some



Olga Knipper didn't under- stand this. She wasn't stupid, but she wasn't subtle either. "How much longer are we going to be secretive?" she writes to him from Moscow in 1900. "And what's the point? ... I can't bear these ambiguities, why complicate life so? ... Chekhov, I believe, would have smiled a sad smile

when he received this one. Olga was a steamroller lady of Ger- man descent. Bear perhaps to marry her, and not try to ex- plain. Mr Pitcher fails to bring out with sufficient emphasis what I take to be Chekhov's stance at this point in their relationship. So they were married. But even then, it wasn't more than

hard scrubbing of the memory cells tells me, too, that there was an exciting, if somewhat overdone, spy tale in the pages.

More spying in early March with *The Alpha Line* by Ted Alibury (Granada, £4.95). And here it is the substance of the book that Time has preserved for me. Perhaps because this was a spy story with a clear didactic purpose. It sought to bring to public attention a situation that corresponds fairly closely to a likely, but secret, real state of affairs: the highly confidential plans for post-nominal Britain. Technology can provide safety for a few. Who are to be the few, not of 1940, but of 19 when?

April, and the first black. Digging into my files rather than my memory, I find I had quite lavish praise for *So Soon Done For* by Marian Babson (Collins, £4.25). But memory says nothing. I think I know why. The book was unpre- tentious, a story about a woman invading a comfortable London suburb, ingeniously incorporating a murder.

Not much more scratched on the tablets in May by Calypso by Ed McBain (Hamish Hamilton, £4.95). Just a rather un- pleasant account of a romanticized wicked lady making love to a male captive watched by a pet Alsatian. McBain's book had things to praise in it. Life-like dialogue, economical story-telling, vividly sketched people and locales, humour, warmth.

A giant crane used in some sort of a robbery coupled with an impression, somewhat vague at the edges, of a man of relentless physical courage:

that is what Time has pre- served for me of a June book, *Show Me A Hero* by Patrick Alexander (Macmillan, £5.95). More logical thinking also tells me I found the book, alas, a disappointment after its author's stunning debut, *Death of a Thirteenth Animal*.

Later in June came *The Rose in Darkness* by Christina Brand (Michael Joseph, £5.25). A welcome return to the full glare of the footlights by a classic crime author too long in the wings, and a decidedly vivid impression left on the screen of memory. The book, though a sweeping all-before-romantic story (and a cunning puzzle), implanted in my mind a fully rounded character, a girl unable not to live a life of her yet wholly sympathetic and attractive.

In July I picked two spy stories. One, *A Game of Secrets* by Thomas Wiseman (Cape, £5.50), leaves no impression, now though it must have had its share of virtues to have made me want to write about it. But the other, *The Per- pheral Spy* by Bernard Paterson (Collins, £5.50), a first novel, has left a distinct mark, though I suppose were I to write about it in full today I might not keep on the point I would have done six months ago. But I remember it as giv- ing back the spy story to a hero who could be my timor- ous self, and yet not lacking the tension of a reader of the genre has a right to expect. A fight in a Paris flat—was it in darkness?—with a strong feel- ing of the chance of life. July was a month of espionage. Towards its end I would

half a marriage. Chekhov—and indeed Olga too—felt it right that her career with Stanislavsky in Moscow should not suffer interruption. It was dangerous for Chekhov, with his tuberculosis, to risk the excitement and climatic rigours of Moscow for more than brief periods; Olga could come down to Yalta only when there was relief. Those three years Mr Pitcher sketches in with an eye for the right details: the busy, not notably sensitive lady and the struck-down genius wave at each other in the friendliest way across the vast Russian distances. Chekhov's ugly, choking death on a hot summer night in Badenweiler is also put before us with a sympathy and a restraint which make it the more horrifying.

But then come a hundred pages of aftermath. Olga's acting range wasn't wide. Naturally and rightly she occupies herself in the main with the great Chekhovian quartet; apart from the four lesser parts, one Dostoevsky adaptation, the Mayor's wife in Gogol's *Government Inspector*, Lady Markov in *The Ideal Husband* (surprisingly), but not much beside. There was a brief affair with Gordon Craig, who was notably expert at brief affairs with women both in and outside his age-range, there was a busy tour of America in 1923 when she had the awe-inspiring experience of shaking hands with President Coolidge, there was discreet, but never dedicated, acceptance of the Soviet regime, there was staunch defence in Germany of the Yalta during the war, and then, in 1953, moving nineteenth birthday celebrations on the Moscow Art Theatre's stage. None of this is more than agreeable chit-chat; the mind keeps drifting sadly back to Anton Pavlovich: what use would he have made of all the years denied him?

have written at length about *The Better Angels* by Charles McCarty (Duckworth, £3.95), one of the best spy stories I have read in a long time. It is to be used to ponder an acute moral problem. Here it was, logic traces back, the dilemma of a United States President forced to order an assassination.

From August Helping With Inquiries by Celia Dale (Macmillan, £4.95) was a murder mystery set with splendid accuracy in a mean London suburb, and it is a mark of the book that the author's impression of life was not of its murderer, or even of its victim but of the couple next door.

September was ushered in by another comparative black, *Victim of Circumstances* by Michael Underwood (Macmillan, £4.95). Yet I praised the book strongly at the time of its publication and I would not wish to withdraw a word. It told of a criminal trial with a twist, a twist of such subtlety that it made it stand out from the generality of its kind.

And now, I feel my long- bearded colleague's discriminating scythe growing blunter. So perhaps in 12 months' time I might not keep on the point of 29 Harcourt Street by John Burton (Bodley Head, £5.50), another first novel. It took a famous crime novelist, the Wallace case, and used it, not to praise a book, but to give a fictional answer to a real-life puzzle, but to illustrate the appallingly mistaken views we can have of each other. Memorably, I think.

H. R. F. Keating

Science fiction

A tourniquet may have been applied, but that artery of literature known as science fiction was still connected to this reviewer's appreciation, pumping away throughout the year. The SF heart is still as vigorous as ever, like an organ in one of Robert Silverberg's stories which now seem to have a repetitive insistence on matter and/or mind exchange. In fact, he came up with one of his best novels towards the end of the year, *The Second Trip* (Gollancz, £4.95) in which personality-exchange is society's way with dangerous criminals.

A related paradox was that, earlier, was published his *Next Stop The Stars* (Dobson, £4.25), a group of Silverberg's short stories, some of them written when he was at college, and which he claims were "the last of his very early twenties when the last of them was written". Not bad, agreed, and of a variety all the more enjoyable since they were written before his work had calcified, however entertainingly, into his trans- plant theme. The themes of Brian Aldiss have always been as multiple and occasionally as enigmatic, as the blooms that

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The king of editors and the people he likes best



In October, 1955, Rupert Hart-Davis, 48, a publisher and author of a highly regarded biography of Hugh Walpole, wrote to George Lyttelton, a retired Eton school-master:

If I had no family (bless them) or other ties and responsibilities I should chuck publishing tomorrow and live in a two-roomed cottage in the Yorkshire Dales relying for my livelihood on freelance literary work. I know exactly how little can be earned in this way, but I have few expensive tastes (only books really). I could read all the great books which now I have only skimmed or forgotten or never read, and then I'd write you letters indeed!

Wishful thinking this may have been, but the miracle (and it is the word Sir Rupert uses today) was achieved in a decade. He sold his publishing business, moved to Yorkshire (to the Old Rectory at Marske-by-the-Sea), and began to pursue that freelance literary life that has this year reached an apogee with the publication of no fewer than four books.

Not that quantity itself is a virtue, but his books themselves bear testimony to the special niche that Sir Rupert, now 72, has carved for himself—as an editor, particularly of letters (Oscar Wilde, Max Beerbohm, George Moore), but also of essays and untruly postscript (The Autobiography of Arthur Ransome had originally been typed by the author on a defective machine with words running off the end of every line) and diaries (the is at present at work on Sir Rupert's).

This year's crop opened with the *Selected Letters of Oscar Wilde* (Oxford, hardback, £6.95 and paperback, £2.95), particularly welcome as the original, complete edition had long been out of print, and has continued this autumn with the second volume of the much-praised *Lyttelton Hart-Davis Letters* (John Murray, £8.95), the correspondence between the novelist R. C. Hutchinson and the poet Martyn Skinner which he edited under the title *Two Men of Letters* (Michael Joseph, £7.95) and—most important to him—*The Arms of Time* (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95), a moving memoir of the short and tragic life of his mother, the elder sister of Duff Cooper. The book, he says, he planned for 50 years

and wrote in five.

One dominant theme apparent in all his work is that Rupert Hart-Davis likes the people he has written about or edited. "A successful biographer needs love or affection for his subject," he believes. "If you lack either then I think it shows." Lady Lyttelton's recent life of Wilfrid Blunt is a case in point—she obviously became fond of him as she wrote and the result is a living portrait.

What I really like—and it may sound pretentious—is making order out of chaos. When Hugh Walpole died there were trunk loads of discarded papers and letters as well as a detailed diary which he kept from 1904 until his death in 1941. It was most satisfying—quite apart from anything else—to sort things out. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Sir Rupert is himself a very orderly person—the Old Rectory has a library of some 16,000 books and he knows where to find every title.

With so many of his books being published the morning mail to the Old Rectory has shown a steady increase. The first volume of the Lyttelton letters has brought more than 200 so far and the second volume seems bound to increase the flow. People have already written to say that the letters have changed their lives, reinvigorating reading lists to reflect the enormous range of books and authors that Lyttelton and Hart-Davis discussed.

Publishing has changed considerably since these letters were written and Rupert Hart-Davis Ltd was operating from an address in Soho Square. In his introduction to the second volume Sir Rupert remarks that "the first attracted enough attention to persuade my intrepid publisher to venture on a sequel", but adds that "the possibility of further volumes [there are enough letters for four more] depends on the response to this one".

300,000 copies. "I only published books I liked or thought good," he recalls. Certainly not just because they would make money, hence Mary McCarthy's novel *The Group* which he distastefully turned down, precipitating in the process a split with William Jovanovich, the head of the American firm, Harcourt Brace, with which he has previously formed an association.

As he remarks in a letter to Lyttelton at the end of 1956, his "Spring list isn't too bad, but one always feels that the next will be barren and im- pudent. The great thing is to work up a string of willing horses, each producing a sale- able book a year, and so doing most of the work for one: most of my winners have been by one-book men, with all to do again."

Books with the Rupert Hart-Davis imprint are recognized today not merely by their titles or by their authors, but by their pleasing design and feel. "I always knew what I wanted," he recalls, even if I didn't always know how to get it. But printers responded. If the binding of one of his first titles, *Sealskin Trousers*, a collection of stories by Eric Linklater, seems unusual, it is because Sir Rupert saw a sample of the wartime cloth and preferred the texture of it inside out, and thus it was bound.

His colophon was a sitting fox, designed by Reynolds Stone. But he soon realized that it took up too much space in newspaper advertisements, which were at a premium in the single-column inch, so for this purpose a running fox (also by Reynolds Stone) entered the Hart-Davis ranks. In its fledgling years it immediately acquired a second World War the firm was hampered by lack of paper. Supplies were rationed and based on publisher's consumption in 1938. As Rupert Hart-Davis Ltd had only an ex-serviceman's allocation, hardly enough to publish one title a year. But thanks to a bookseller-cum-publisher in Glasgow, who had a surplus for his postwar needs, as well as supplies bought on the black market, he was able to publish his first titles.

"I had to go for dead authors mainly. There was such a shortage of books that absolutely anything was sale- able—you could have published the railway timetable in Greek and it would have sold. I didn't want to publish a new author because I would never have had enough paper for reprint."

Today in Swatdale his free- lance literary work is by no means over. The Sassoon diaries will be published by Faber, the first volume, he hopes, next year. There should also be a third volume of the *Lyttelton Hart-Davis Letters*, followed by the letters of William Plomer, best remembered for his work in editing the Kilvert diaries. And all the time further Oscar Wilde letters are coming to light. More than 180 new ones have turned up since his original collection in 1952, and these should once again form a volume of their own.

No wonder then that William Plomer called Rupert Hart-Davis "the king of editors".

Ion Trewin

The Times Cook



Shona
Crawford Poole

Talking stock

Do you keep a stockpot, feed it with careful economy on bones and trimmings, and boil it daily? I confess I do not, and that a proper stockpot is an ideal of good housekeeping as well as of good cooking. I am a bread cookery books, especially the serious kind with no pictures, have a sneaky way of implying that stock cubes will never do, though their instructions for making soup often require enough meat to feed a family for days.

Now recipes for home made stock cubes can be found in some very old cookery books, so why is there such snobbery about the convenience kind. Of course they are not quite so healthy as the real thing, but they are a good deal more convenient. I am a bread cookery books, especially the serious kind with no pictures, have a sneaky way of implying that stock cubes will never do, though their instructions for making soup often require enough meat to feed a family for days.

Some people say that stock cubes are too salty, which is, for some purposes, true. Others claim that using cubes makes everything taste the same, which is only so for those who never change brand. With so many kinds to choose from, including the vegetarian and kosher varieties, sameness is no argument. I sometimes wonder if the professionals just like doing everything the hard way for the sake of it.

In this respect Robert Carrier has become steadily more practical over the years. His

book, *Entertaining*, which has recently come out in paperback, takes full account of the time-tables and budgets of busy people. Where home made stock makes all the difference his recipes call for it. Where a cube will give the right result then a cube is what he specifies.

So following his good example, here are two soups which work equally well with freshly made or instant stock. Prawn chowder is quickly made and almost a meal in itself. There is no need to thaw frozen prawns before adding them to the soup.

Prawn chowder
Serves four to six

1½g (1oz) butter
3 rashers streaky bacon, finely chopped
450g (1lb) potatoes, peeled and sliced
300ml (½ pint) chicken stock
600ml (1 pint) milk
1 bay leaf
Freshly ground black pepper
25g (8oz) peeled prawns
150ml (¼ pint) single cream or natural yogurt
Salt

Melt the butter in a large pan and add the bacon. Cook gently

until the bacon fat begins to run. Add the onion and fry gently together, without allowing the mixture to brown, until the onion is soft.

Add the potato, stock, milk and bay leaf and bring almost to the boil. Reduce the heat, season with pepper, cover and simmer until the potatoes are soft and beginning to break up.

Fish out the bay leaf. Add the prawns and cream or yogurt, and heat gently until the prawns are hot without allowing the soup to boil. Add more pepper and salt to taste. Just before serving, stir in the chopped parsley.

Chilled walnut soup is a light and simple first course for winter dinner parties. Its flavour fits particularly well into any menu including roast grouse, pheasant or partridge.

Chilled walnut soup
Serves four to six

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 large onion, finely chopped
55g (2 oz) shelled walnuts
900 ml (1½ pints) chicken stock
300 ml (½ pint) single cream, or equal parts single cream and natural yogurt
Salt and pepper

Heat the oil in a large pan, add the onion and cook gently until the onion is soft but not browned. Add walnuts and fry them with the onions for a minute or two before adding the stock. Bring the mixture to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer, covered, for about 10 minutes. Cool the soup.

Purée the mixture by pressing it through a sieve, or blend until smooth and strain. Add the cream, or cream and yogurt, and salt and pepper, and mix well. Chill thoroughly and check the seasoning again when the mixture is very cold. Stir well just before serving.

* *Entertaining*, by Robert Carrier, is published in hardback by Sidgwick & Jackson at £7.95, and in paperback by Arrow Books at £4.95.



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WHAT'S THE HARM?

Pornography is deeply offensive to some people, depending on the strength of the brew and the delicacy of the stomach. Pornography affords pleasure to some people, who extract sexual stimulation from it. Pornography is a source of profit to those who manufacture and deal in it. If that were all there is to it, the standing of the law in the latter would be clear and fairly simple. It would seek to protect those whom pornography offends from the nuisance of having it thrust under their noses and of aving the public scene in which they move disfigured by the splash of its commercial exploitation. The law would not seek to interfere otherwise with its availability or trade. Some restriction: no prohibition. Add a sort of protection for juveniles which the law affords against the demon drink, and also a thoroughgoing censoring system for the public showing of films, and you have the bones of what is recommended by Professor Bernard Williams's committee.

Crucial questions

It is a solution which has much to commend it, assuming the sake of argument that the legal provisions would work in the way intended—a large assumption in anything to do with obscenity. It prevents the public bruising of feelings, it lowers private gratification, it enlarges freedom of choice, it reduces the significance of heretofore unstable legal distinctions between classes of material, it excuses the law and law enforcement from a duty to oppress the unexpressible, and somewhat reduces the scope for corruption of the police. There is, however, one very noticeable omission from the scheme. It does not purport to ward adult persons or society in general from harm (except a restricted protection of actors or models for pornographic productions from actual physical harm): it is because in the view held by the authors throughout most of their report pornography, including the pornography of violence, does not give rise to harm either of a type or of a degree which requires that we should intervene. In this view pornography is radically on all previous attempts to regulate these matters by statute, common law. These sections of the report—and they are substantial—which consider the justifications of the harm done by pornography and the protective action of law are the crucial sections: for the radical departure that is proposed stands or falls by reference to those questions. First, harm to whom? There are so many ways of going to the dogs, so many influences abroad to debase sensibility, corrupt the imagination and warp the personality that even those who are fearful in their own minds that pornography has these effects may hesitate to single it out for oppression in order to protect themselves those who like it of kind of thing. Then there is the harm of a more general kind which in the

words of the committee concerns "the infecting of society with a disregard for decency, a lack of respect for others, a taste for the base, a contempt for restraint and responsibility"—what is sometimes called cultural pollution. On this the committee justly observes that such arguments should not be discounted just because they are not based on direct tangible effects. "Long-term effects on civilization and culture are self-evidently important and should be considered as carefully as one can, even if they cannot be quantified and demonstrated." But this is an area in which it is especially difficult to distinguish cause from effect, symptom from disease, the significant from the superficial; and it is an area to which an open, plural, changing society will be cautious in admitting prohibitive law-making. For rescue from moral and cultural decline a society must turn elsewhere than to the criminal law.

There remains a kind of harm which is in principle identifiable and to which the law commonly pays attention. This is the harm which may come to a man by indulgence in pornography. If pornography tends to a significant degree to excite his sadistic, or actively reinforce his proclivity, to criminal or anti-social behaviour which does harm to others, then there would be grounds enough for the law to interfere: suspicion falling principally not on the merely lewd or lascivious, but on the pornography of sadism where the sexual drive is fused with cruelty and violence.

A newcomer to the controversy, if there is one, might expect the medical, behavioural and social sciences between them to return a clear answer to what appears to be a fairly simple question: does indulgence in sadistic pornography tend to provoke behaviour of a similar character in a significant proportion of cases? He will be disappointed. He may be disappointed too by the committee's handling of admittedly unsatisfactory evidence. It starts from the dubious premise that in order to justify legal intervention "the causation of harm should lie 'beyond all reasonable doubt'". That imposes a heavy burden of proof when the proposition is not to impose a new prohibition but to maintain one which has existed for a very long time in most literate societies; when the prohibition accords with mimetic theories of moral development from Plato to A. N. Whitehead; and when the material to be prohibited is of no intrinsic merit whatever. A significant risk of harm occurring would seem to be a good enough reason for prohibitive action (provided the action, while remaining proportionate to the mischief, can be effective).

From that starting point the committee proceeds to inspect with cool scepticism the evidence presented to it. From its expert witnesses it looks for proof, not mere misgivings, about the effects of pornography on behaviour. It finds that clinical evidence points in opposite directions: that experimental evidence is highly artificial; that the citations of particular instances of pornographic cause and effect are defective because not thoroughly investigated—although it takes no steps of its own to repair that want. It finds that correlations of pornography and the commission of sexual offences are full of pitfalls and fail to demonstrate a positive let alone a causal connection. Then the unexpected happens. The committee is sailing along in rational detachment towards the farther shore where it will deliver its message of Not Proven. No evidence of harm such as to justify suppression, when it is hit by a sudden squall. The wreckage of that event can be studied in paragraph 12.10 of the report. The committee has been shown some films: it is not simply the extremity of the violence which concerns us; we found it extremely disturbing that highly explicit depictions of mutilation, waggery, menace and humiliation should be presented for the entertainment of an audience in a way that appeared to emphasize the pleasures of sadism. . . . It may be that this very graphically presented sadistic material serves only a vicarious object of fantasy, and does no harm at all. There is certainly no conclusive evidence to the contrary. But . . . in this connexion it seems extremely sensible to be cautious. We are more impressed by the consideration that the extreme vividness and immediacy of film may make it harder rather than easier for some who are attracted to sadistic material to tell the difference between fantasy and reality.

For that intuitive judgment they offer none of the clinical, experimental, or statistical corroboration that they insist upon for the probation of the intuitive judgments of others in the same field. Just when it is about to be demonstrated for all to see by the legislature and everybody else besides an effort to take an agreeably relaxed view of the social effect of pornography, these thirteen calmly rational men and women jump up in the air like Mrs Whitehouse and upset their own apple cart. They leave the field as they found it, effectively contested by those who take a more consistently serious view of the harmful consequences of pornography.

Wahhabi "Soldiers of Allah", led by Abdul Aziz ibn Muhammad ibn Saud, who in 1803 entered Mecca and destroyed all the domed shrines where people had offered their prayers to saints rather than to God, confiscating and destroying all hookah pipes and musical instruments—an operation repeated in 1924 when the Wahhabis killed, or, at least, drove from the same tribes as the armed group of today, seized Mecca from its Hashemite rulers in the name of Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, the present King's father. In present circumstances it is unlikely that the use of violence within the holy Haram would receive mass support. But it is an uncomfortable reminder that Saudi Arabia, like Iran, has an identity of its own capable of rebelling against over-rapid social change, corruption and Westernisation. The Saudi rulers can be relied on to react with severity. But having done so, they are likely to try and distance themselves further from the West in both social and economic policies, while pressing harder their advocacy of the Palestinian cause and the Muslim claim to Jerusalem. Their unwillingness to make promises about future oil production levels to Mr William Miller may be a forerunner of what is to come.

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Severe censorship

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Pickets and hospital patients

From Mr Roland Moyle, MP for Lewisham, East (Labour)

Sir, The sight of industrial pickets denying healing oil to hospital patients (whether suffering from cancer or not) is deeply disturbing to all with any humanity or any sense of pride in, or affection for, the National Health Service. The news that the problem is being solved by counter-picketing by other groups at the hospital can only add to that sense of disturbance. Whatever the outcome such tactics will not make Charing Cross, with its need for teamwork, a happier place to work in when the dispute is over.

That such things should not happen must be said. But it is not enough to make such statements, however sincerely. Those with a public position have a duty to take action and create institutions which avoid critical situations arising. What is probably not generally known is that the National Health Service lacks machinery for dealing with disputes of a local nature, such as that which has arisen at Charing Cross Hospital. Conscious of this problem David Ennals and myself had, before we left office, agreed with representatives of the medical service, union and hospital management to set up a local disputes machinery which would be based on the principles to the NHS national negotiating machinery for detailed negotiation and resolution of disputes.

For the same unaccountable reason the national negotiating machinery has set upon our document for

months on end. I know there was some disagreement about the role of a regional disputes panel and also some NHS management feared that such procedures might undermine their authority. I believe such fears are groundless. I have worked in other industries with dispute machineries similar to that proposed for health and found their management to be at least as authoritative as that of the National Health Service.

Surely the Whitley Council should not get on with the job. There can be no real obstacle to the institution of a procedure for dealing with local disputes in the NHS. This could well be an occasion when the Secretary of State would feel justified in leaning on the negotiating machinery. We would all then be spared, pickets, patients and people, the distress of these indecisionary delays.

ROLAND MOYLE, Minister of State for Health 1976-79, House of Commons, November 27.

From Mr Brian Fothergill Sir, Has not the time now come for legislation to make the picketing of hospitals illegal? Surely the sick and dying deserve to be protected from exploitation as hostages in industrial disputes, a practice that dishonours those who make use of it and any society that tolerates it.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN FOTHERGILL, 7, Union Square, N1, November 27.

BL management

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry, North West (Labour)

Sir, Your leader "At Stake: 100,000 Jobs" (November 27) was a commonplace of over-simplification. If you ask seven people out of eight if they want to keep their jobs, the vote is as predictable as was the outcome of the latest BL ballot. For you, and worse still for BL management, to interpret it as an "overwhelming expression of support for Sir Michael" is a dangerous self-delusion.

As a select committee representing a car constituency in the West Midlands will tell you, the credibility of Sir Michael and his senior colleagues is now at an all-time low. And is this surprising if one considers that Sir Michael has failed as an executive and as a manager of a car company in the motor car industry?

BL's market share is down; BL Cars has failed to generate internally adequate funds; and its manpower productivity as measured by cars produced per direct operative is also down. Add to this the con-

stant chopping and changing of basic facility planning which directly affects the workforce and you can well imagine their bewilderment and mistrust.

Sir Michael has now been in charge of BL for over two years. If, as you say, a week can be a long time in the car industry, then certainly two years—which have been boom years for the motor industry whatever the future may hold—are time enough to get a company pointing in the right direction.

Sir Michael, of whom I initially had high hopes, has manifestly failed to adapt his control to his failure has been his inability to win the unions and men over. Until he and his senior management achieve this, BL cars will continue to decline. And in this light, irrespective of any other considerations, the failure of the BL management to reduce its own staff by three thousand, the peremptory dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson can only be judged an unjustifiable and unnecessarily counterproductive decision.

Yours etc, GEOFFREY ROBINSON, House of Commons.

Raising EEC farm prices

From the President of the National Farmers' Union

Sir, In your leader of November 28, it was suggested that the Prime Minister could veto any increase in farm prices next year and refuse to renew the marketing year.

Of course, the National Farmers' Union recognises that there must be a major reduction in the net contribution of the United Kingdom to the EEC budget. However, to use what your leader describes as "blunt instruments", which would at the same time do very considerable harm to one of Britain's biggest and most efficient major industries, is not sensible.

It is quite unrealistic, both socially and politically, to expect that European farm prices can be frozen, when all other prices are rising, and inflation in the Community is close to 10 per cent.

In the United Kingdom, our own inflation rate is twice as much as average. For far too long, British farmers have, through the over-valued green pound, received much lower prices than those paid to producers elsewhere in the Community. This has deprived British agriculture of many hundreds of millions of pounds, badly needed for new investment; it has also resulted in the serious decline of our breeding herds while those in many EEC countries have been built up.

Britain's farmers are efficient producers and make no secret of their agricultural and food processing industries run down in this way. The only people who benefit are our continental competitors, certainly not, in the long run, the British consumer.

British agriculture does not expect an exceptional treatment, but it does expect fair treatment. It

does not expect to be handicapped in competition with other countries by the use of an artificial exchange rate.

I am, Sir, Yours sincerely, RICHARD BUTLER, The President, The National Farmers' Union, Agriculture House, Knightsbridge, SW1, November 28.

From Lord Douro, MEP for Surrey (Conservative)

Sir, My colleague Stanley Johnson (November 27) is entirely correct. When the British Government last Friday (November 23) voted against the European Parliament's amendment to reduce agricultural spending by the EEC, they voted against the national interest because of their fear of confirming the European Parliament's budgetary authority over the Community Budget.

If the French do support Mrs Thatcher on Thursday we will all be pleasantly surprised. If they don't then the Conservative Government will have behaved exactly like their Socialist predecessors did a year ago over the site of the Regional Fair. The European Parliament is trying to reduce farm spending because the Council of Agriculture Ministers, including our own Minister, seem incapable of doing it themselves.

At this difficult moment it would have been better for the British Government to have accepted gratefully the help they were receiving from the European Parliament, rather than spurning it against their own and Europe's interests.

Yours sincerely, DOURO, European Parliament, Strasbourg, November 27.

Price of a mortgage

From Mr John Heddle, MP for Southfield and Twickenham (Conservative)

Sir, The housing organization Shelter has stated that "thousands of families will be rendered homeless because of the increase in the mortgage interest rate". For an organization which wishes to be taken seriously in the housing field, I believe this statement to be ill-considered, alarmist and without foundation.

Since the announcement by the Building Societies' Association on November 22 that the mortgage interest rate was to rise to 15 per cent, I have spoken to 10 directors of national and local building societies to ask them how they will deal with cases of genuine hardship.

All of them assured me that provided the borrower had a good repayment record, their society would extend the term of mortgage to soften the blow.

Whilst the increase in our monthly repayment will cause us all to re-adjust, I am reminded that the actual rate of interest is only 10 per cent when tax relief is taken into account. Compared with the rate we have to pay on our credit cards, hire-purchase accounts, and the like, borrowers are still getting "good value for money".

Yours faithfully, JOHN HEDDLE, House of Commons, November 28.

Aid in new guise

From Mr Richard Riley

Sir, Professor Dahrendorf asks (November 20), "Is there a more effective form of overseas aid than studentships?"

Having heard the broad American accents of the Iranian students currently holding United States embassy staff as hostages, I can only assume that there is.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD RILEY, 74 Galba Court, Augustus Close, Brentford, Middlesex.

Jury vetting

From Mr T. G. Talbot, QC

Sir, In your issue of November 19 Miss Hartman and Mr Sedley rely on the ordinance for questions, 1285, as forbidding the prosecutor to challenge a juror except for cause.

Professor Colopel Draper (November 23) contends that the ordinance for inquests may not have been validly enacted. However that may be, the ordinance for inquests was repealed by section 62 of the Juries Act, 1925, and the words on which Miss Hartman and Mr Sedley rely were repealed without alteration in section 29 of that Act.

There can be no question of the validity of section 29, which is still part of the statute law of England. I am, Sir, your obedient servant T. G. TALBOT, Chairman of Committees' Office, House of Lords.

The language of Common Prayer

From the Reverend Professor S. G. Hall

Sir, First, the Principal of St Hugh's and her colleagues (November 14) may expect to be regarded by churchmen as outsiders meddling irrelevantly and irreverently in matters of no concern to them. The ordinary earnest clergyman is deeply concerned to generate warm spontaneous, directly expressed and intelligent worship from a congregation which knows what it is saying and doing.

He is also concerned to communicate the truth about God and the love which he gives to mankind in Christ to the outsiders who neither hear nor care. He often sees the Prayer Book and the old Bible as a manifest and unnecessary obstacle to these primary spiritual tasks. In this the clergy are following the educators and salesmen, who have reduced communication to a fine art of feeding people with what is brief, direct and easy.

Secondly, there are different sides to the question of Bible versions. The letter you print underestimates the literary quality of some of the modern texts. The Revised Standard Version, the Jerusalem Bible and the New English Bible are often fluent and dignified. The religious poetry of the Old Testament for instance, and some of the New Testament epistles, usually read better as well as more accurately in the recent versions. But it is also true that most of the modern versions commit some banalities.

The latest and soon most popular, Today's English Version or the Good News Bible has pursued deliberately and scientifically a policy of expressing biblical thoughts in the words of modern vulgar English. It is consequently inaccurate, limp and banal on page after page, because modern vulgar English has no words for many minor antiques (like the Mark Matthew 2 who become mere "visitors"), let alone the mighty thoughts and towering judgments of God's address to man.

Yet the clergy favour it. And they favour it because they themselves can understand it and so can the lay people who are invited to participate by reading parts of the service. Many of the clergy themselves do not read the Authorized Version intelligibly, perhaps because they do not understand it enough to give the words the right emphasis and punctuation.

Thirdly, the modern rites have been introduced, for doctrinal reasons or "ecumenical" or "sectarian" reasons, not because "the language of the age is the only language of belief". They express a different, sometimes more ancient, and often better, understanding of what the liturgy is about. For all its beauty, the liturgical provision of the Prayer Book is a patchwork, grossly over-verbalized. Would any of the signatories be willing to stand through the whole penitential introduction to Morning and Evening

Prayer twice daily? Would they endure the long exhortation required at Holy Communion, which I have never heard except when I read it myself? The Prayer Book needs a clearer expression of the sacrifice of thanksgiving at the altar; it needs to widen the intercessions beyond the narrow nationalism of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; it needs a clearer view of God's creative power and the church's priestly work before him. All of these modern rites offer, and it is worth paying a high price for them. But the price has been made unnecessarily high. The intentions of the revisers are often not understood. Instead of the objective, dignified honours of God and supplication to him, we are left with trivial, chummy family gatherings where no salvation accrues because no demands are made of God. It is not so much that the clergy are "supposedly" more "spiritual" exercises are recommended instead, and truth founders in a sea of pale emotion. It is not so much that the Authorized Version has ceased to be the Bible and Psalter have ceased: when they are read it is in the briefest snippets, chosen at best from an over-selective lectionary, and as often as not merely at the whim of the officiant. It is not so much that the Prayer Book has been dislocated by modern texts, as that liturgy itself has ceased.

We have arrived at the present pass partly because of the weakened literacy of the clergy. This is not the fault of the clergy themselves: they are the ones who obeyed the call and made the sacrifice and took the training prescribed. The fault lies in part with the leaders of the national and educational establishments who by their indifference or contempt have forced the confession of God in Christ out of national and university life into the sectarian backwater of private belief, personal taste, and gathered congregations. This nation still has a better clergy than it has ever had. It is not so much that the clergy are "supposedly" more "spiritual" exercises are recommended instead, and truth founders in a sea of pale emotion. It is not so much that the Authorized Version has ceased to be the Bible and Psalter have ceased: when they are read it is in the briefest snippets, chosen at best from an over-selective lectionary, and as often as not merely at the whim of the officiant. It is not so much that the Prayer Book has been dislocated by modern texts, as that liturgy itself has ceased.

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Reviving Civil Defence

From Brigadier W. F. K. Thompson

Sir, Your call to the Government to reestablish the Civil Defence Corps deserves wide support, and not only for the reasons mentioned in your leader (November 26). The maintenance of the cohesion and morale of the NATO alliance in time of crisis is the obvious part of the coin whose other side is deterrence. This in turn requires that each member nation psychologically prepares its people to stand up to implicit and explicit threats of military coercion, the primary weapon of the Soviet Union in an international crisis.

While it is an international crisis, national morale collapses all else fails, the military forces become impotent, no matter how strong. The maintenance of a recognisable balance of military power is a prerequisite for the maintenance of morale but is not sufficient of itself. Security of the base is the first principle of strategy. At present there are serious deficiencies in the defence of the United Kingdom against physical attack, while our psychological defences are altogether neglected. These deficiencies put powerful weapons in the hands of those whose aim it is to undermine public morale in any dispute between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

The reestablishment of the Civil Defence Corps would be one step in making good these serious deficiencies. At first the corps should

concentrate on quality rather than quantity. The aim should be to establish a nationwide network of cadres with a proper command structure, something the old Civil Defence Corps lacked. The still virile Royal Observer Corps might be taken as an example in this respect.

Yours faithfully, KYNASTON THOMPSON, Old Cleeve, Church Road, Newick, Sussex.

From Dr Gordon Nonhebel

Sir, For maintenance of essential services requiring specialized technical skills, such as electricity, gas, sewage and water, the Civil Contingencies Unit should immediately compile a register from the vast pool of retired or redundant men and women with the necessary experience and fitness who would be willing to help. They should be grouped by their skills, and the register of the defence forces. They might prefer to work six instead of eight-hour shifts. To those who have been members of a trade union, I would repeat that allegiance to your country must take precedence.

Yours faithfully, GORDON NONHEBEL, 57 Woodley Lane, Romsey, Hampshire.

Mountbatten statue?

From Mr James Blewitt

Sir, No Sir. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

While in no way denying the desire to give Lord Mountbatten a magnificent statue, I feel as I did, and wrote, 15 years ago, that the plinth in Trafalgar Square required not only a great personage but a great equestrian personage on a well known horse.

Who passes through Cockspur Street without an admiring glance at Adonis as well as George III or round Hyde Park Corner without roundly Copenhagen as well as Wellington?

At the time I suggested Her

Majesty or Winston. The horse may not be the most suitable but the personage is and I locally hope that the plinth will remain empty for many years to come.

Yours faithfully, JAMES BLEWITT, Botted Hall, Colchester, Essex.

From Ms Kusoom Vadgama Sir, Why not rename Heathrow Airport Louis Mountbatten Airport? Yours faithfully, KUSOOM VADGAMA, 808 Farnham Road, Temple Fortune, NW11, November 22.

Gladstone's return

From The Duke of Buccleuch

Sir, Ian Bradley's account (The Times, November 24) of Gladstone's return to Parliament at the Midlothian election 100 years ago contains a false and slanderous allegation about my great-grandfather, by stating that "his numerous tenants faced eviction if they did not vote for his candidate" who happened to be his son.

There is no shred of evidence to support this slur but any amount of contrary evidence that he was an exemplary landowner enjoying a most harmonious relationship with his tenants and employees. In his case such an act would have been unthinkable as it is today and furthermore I doubt whether he would have had as many as 25 tenants eligible to vote—fewer probably than Lord Rosbery who organized Gladstone's campaign.

Yours faithfully, BUCCLEUCH, Drumlanrig Castle, Dalkeith, Dumfriesshire.

Let down by a lizard

From Mr J. L. Hopkins

Sir, Your Science Report (November 21) disclosed that dinosaurs enjoyed a family life. Today comes the even more startling revelation, made in light of recent palaeontological advance, that the bronosaurus is to have a pointed head.

The physiognomy of this dull but lovable lizard, with its graceful, stem-like neck, must be familiar to every schoolboy and girl. It provided a comfortable counterpoint to its voracious relation, tyrannosaurus rex.

"Museums everywhere" as you say, will comply to make the change. Some schoolchildren may be confused. Adults like myself, buffeted daily by the shifting realities of a modern world, were at least secure with their image of the blunt-headed thunder lizard, grazing pacifically in its swampy domain. Yours faithfully, J. L. HOPKINS, 93 Linden Gardens, W2, November 24.

Dante and treachery

From Dr Barbara Reynolds

Sir, E. M. Forster was not to be trusted on Italian Literature. Not only did he assume that I promissed sposi contained passionate avowals of love (see his short story, The Eternal Moment), he was also wrong about Dante.

The four concentric zones of the ninth circle of Dante's Inferno represent, in descending order, treachery to kindred, treachery to party, treachery to guests, and treachery to rulers and benefactors. Brutus and Cassius and Judas are crunched in the three mouths of Satan, who looms out of the very

centre of lowest Hell: Judas, the betrayer of the benefactor of mankind, Brutus and Cassius, the betrayers of the founder of the Roman Empire, an institution divinely ordained, so Dante believed, to govern the world. Where did E. M. Forster get the idea that Brutus and Cassius were thus penalized for betraying their friend rather than their country? There must have been some strange interpretations of Dante among his friends.

It has been noted that Professor Blunt expressed no repentance for his treachery but on the contrary sought to justify it by references

to conscience and loyalty. Dante has provided a striking image of this aspect of the sin he most abhorred. At the very moment of choosing treachery, the traitor's soul leaves his body and is lodged in the ice of the ninth circle, being replaced on earth by a demon. Traitors thus die to humanity before they are dead and repentance is impossible. This may have been somewhat theologically, but it appears to be borne out psychologically.

Yours faithfully, BARBARA REYNOLDS, 220 Milton Road, Cambridge, November 23.



EEC moves closer to treaty with Comecon

The European Economic Community has moved nearer a formal agreement with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet trading block, after three days of negotiations in Moscow. There is still a fundamental disagreement over the basic issue of East-West trade.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, vice-president of the European Commission, said yesterday that some progress had been made in the wording of the preamble to any treaty. The two sides had also agreed to exchange information regularly and to co-operate in a number of fields.

Chinese visit

A group of Chinese executives from the Canton Electronics Bureau is visiting Hong Kong to discuss industrial cooperation with local and foreign-owned electronics companies, and study production and marketing methods.

Approximately fifty companies based in Hong Kong have signed agreements on processing and assembly operations in thirty of these electronic enterprises during the past year.

Chemicals delay

Plans for the financial salvage of Italy's stricken chemicals industry are still being held up, as the only company so far to have reached an outline agreement on a rescue programme, is facing the possible breakdown of this project. The chemical workers union FULC yesterday called a nationwide strike in the industry for today, to protest against the continuing delays.

Italy wins Saudi order

Italy's state-owned engineering company and Alcantara the Saudi company have won a joint order from the Saudi Arabian government to build a desalination plant worth about 24,000 m lire (£3.5m) on the Red Sea near Jiddah.

Women 'scapegoats'

Women workers in Caracas, Venezuela, were warned that they could become the "scapegoats" in reckless implementation of new technology, by Mr Roy Gendham, general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs.

Alumina contract

The Soviet Union will import 70,000 tons of Indian alumina next year under contracts worth \$15m (£5.93m). Two companies will supply the alumina as the results of deals at an international trade fair in progress.

Canadian expansion

Mr John Crosbie, the Canadian Finance Minister, has said his December 11 Budget will try to stimulate the economy by encouraging expansion of Canadian industries, especially those which manufacture internationally-traded goods.

Brazil crude record

Brazil's daily oil output rose to a three-year record on October 9 of 180,214 barrels, which companies with a daily average for the nine months ended September 30 of 156,949 barrels.

Norway oil output up

Total production of oil and gas on Norway's continental shelf reached about 31.06 million tonnes of oil equivalents in the first 10 months of this year, against 24.88 million in the same period in 1978.

Civil servants' rise

The French Cabinet has approved a 1.5 per cent increase in civil servants' pay from December. The rise, which is in line with the bank's disclosure increase so far this year to 11 per cent.

Cement contract

F. L. Smith, the Copenhagen cement company, has signed a 1,300m kroner (£116m) contract with the Algerian authorities for building a cement factory, to be finished by 1982 which will have an annual production capacity of one million tonnes.

Credit policy

Credit policy decisions are unlikely to be made after today's meeting of the West German Federal Bank Central Council. It is also probably too early for the bank to disclose its plans for a money supply growth target for next year.

GATT budget raised

Member states of the 84-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) approved a budget of 39.83m Swiss francs (£5.5m) for 1980, a 0.28 per cent increase.

Gulf of Mexico bids

A total of 322 bids on 96 tracts in the western and central areas of the Gulf of Mexico were submitted in New Orleans. The value of these bids was \$4,700m (about £2,350m).

Attempts to strengthen currency and attract foreign capital 'ineffective' Lack of leverage in oil market weakens yen

Japanese fears of rising inflation are growing in the absence of any effective anti-inflationary measures, for their fears rest more with outside economic and currency developments than internal problems.

At the core of the apprehension is the ever-lowering value of the yen. Compared with a year ago, the value—around 250 yen to the dollar—is 40 per cent less. Even during the recent months, the yen has depreciated by nearly 20 per cent.

In view of this the current and the more immediate concern of the government and the Bank of Japan is not so much how to counter inevitable price spirals, but how to prevent any further decline in the value of the yen.

However, the decision taken on Tuesday by a worried government to institute a series of foreign exchange and capital decontrol measures in an apparent effort to prevent any further fall of the yen proved ineffective. The aim had been to attract foreign currency and, at the same time, preclude any speculative moves. The measures included raising the ceiling on dollar and other foreign currency holdings and flexible operation of the "impact loan" system, but the gain in the yen was short-lived. The market, after a momentary reaction, returned to the pre-announcement stage.

Oil is mainly behind the currency devaluation. Japan depends on imports for up to 95 per cent of its oil, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of its energy, and is the direct cause of the currency problem.

One disturbing element in this connection is that while the yen is intrinsically pegged to the dollar, the declining dollar value does not reflect itself on the yen.

While other main currencies, such as the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc rise as the dollar sinks, the yen moves independently of dollar fluctuations. The basic vulnerability of the yen caused by the absence of any leverage in the oil market is held accountable.

In view of such currency movement, the Bank of Japan was reported yesterday to be considering another rise in the official discount rate which now stands at 6.25 per cent a year.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Economic Planning Agency (ERA), have both tried to dispel any fears that could panic consumers into stockpiling. After their bitter experience of the first big oil crisis, earlier in the 1970s—both agencies have repeatedly assured the public that oil reserves are sufficient (102 days of reserves now) and that there will be no shortage of commodities in the foreseeable future.

With or without government assurances, however, commodity prices have begun showing an ominous upward trend. The wholesale price index, which remained below a 1 per cent annual rise during the early part of the year (0.9 per cent in February and 0.1 per cent in March) jumped to 0.9 per cent in August and as much as 12.6 per cent in September.

While this increase has not affected consumer prices yet, the upward trend is clearly there. The lowest rise of 2.5 per cent was observed in the March 1979. The February of 1979, jumped to 4.0 per cent in July and 4.2 per cent in September over the corresponding months of 1978. Deeper imports caused by the cheaper yen are also a big contributing factor to the prospect of a further price spiral.

The mounting balance of payments deficits which stood at \$12,388m in 1978 as against \$3,164m in 1977 are estimated at substantially more in 1979.

Deficits in October amounted to \$1,381m which was the third largest of the year (\$1,466m in January and \$1,648m in August).

Petroleum payments account for a large portion of increasing deficits. It is estimated that the \$23,452m payments for oil imports (270 million tons) in 1978 will increase at least by 50 per cent in 1979.

As a result, gold and foreign exchange holdings, which amounted to \$33,000m at the end of 1978 now stand at \$25,300m, which, at the current rate of decrease, may undercut the 1977 reserves of \$27,800m.

It is against this background that the government has started compiling a national budget for fiscal 1980 which starts in April. According to Finance Ministry sources, the total of the general account for the new fiscal year may be held down to some 42,700,000 yen or a 10 per cent increase over the current plan, the smallest growth rate for years.

It is thought extremely doubtful that the growth rate of 5 to 6 per cent as envisaged by the government would be achieved. According to a survey conducted by the Daiwa Bank, the growth rate in fiscal 1980 would not be more than 2.1 per cent (real) which compares with the 5.6 per cent in 1978 and 5.9 per cent in 1979.

Such a budgetary framework, plus the currency behaviour and price rises would, in the eyes of most observers, mean a depressive economy, inflationary currency, and a more severe stagnation than has been observed in the past.

Kosi Nakamura

in Tokyo

Toyota (GB) seeks site for HQ and expansion

By Edward Townsend

Toyota (GB), the British arm of Japan's biggest car maker, is seeking a 20-acre site in the south of England for a new headquarters and warehousing. The company says it wants a site able to accommodate 400,000 sq ft of warehousing and 40,000 sq ft of offices, somewhere between London and Swindon, but is not prepared at present to go into detail on its investment intentions.

Toyota (GB) employs 320 people at four sites in a head office at Croydon, an export division nearby, a parts depot at Crawley and an import depot at Sheerness. It plans to combine most of its operations under one roof.

A spokesman said the move had been prompted by increasing demand for parts and service as a result of Toyota's growing car sales in the United Kingdom.

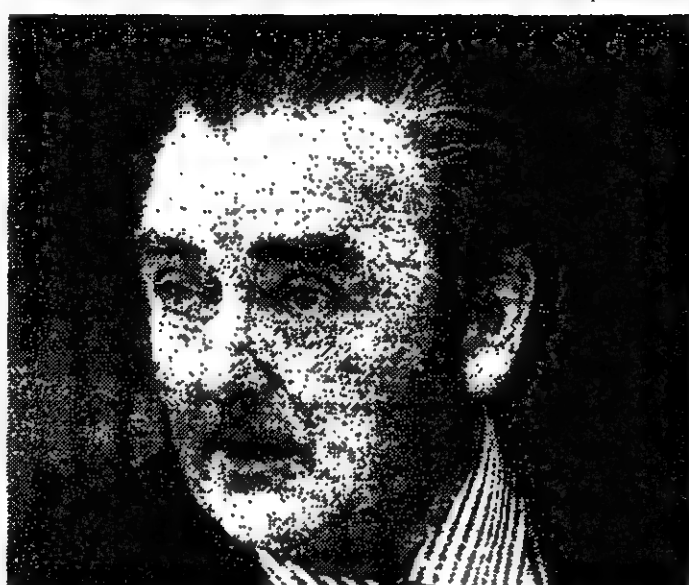
It is also clear that the company is planning for expansion in the hope that the present voluntary restriction on imports of Japanese cars eventually will be lifted.

Japanese car manufacturers have maintained their share of the United Kingdom market this year at about 10.1 per cent. Datsun, the leader, has about 57 per cent of new car sales, followed by Toyota with about 24 per cent.

Officials of the British and Japanese motor industries last met in Tokyo in September and it appears that the "understanding" which restricts Japanese car sales will be continued during 1980. A spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said the issue would not be discussed again before the start of next year.

Datsun, which has remained relatively quiet this year on the issue, said yesterday it hoped 1980 would be the last year in which its sales were held back. The spokesman said: "The reason is to help British Leyland, but all we look at are the hundreds of thousands of EEC cars that are pouring in to the gap."

Exports of assembled vehicles in October rose 2.8 per cent to 410,300 from 399,100 in September and were up sharply by 32.4 per cent from 309,900 a year earlier, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said.



Mr Roy Close: Call for changes in Employment Protection Act

Managers divided on employment protection

By Patricia Tiedall

Management Correspondent

A split has opened in management ranks over the question of whether small companies should be given special exemption in government proposals to alter employment protection legislation.

A majority of the British Institute of Management, membership of about 55,000 agrees with the proposals that new companies with fewer than 20 employees should be exempt from the unfair dismissal provisions of the Act for the first two years of trading.

But a significant minority think that the provision would be open to abuse and that it would be better to encourage small companies by other means.

After consultation with BIM membership and with the affiliated Institution of Industrial Managers, Mr Roy Close, BIM's director general, wrote to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday giving the collective views of the managers. There is also dissent with the assumption in the proposals that maternity pay should be maintained at the same level as previous earnings.

While not unanimously against it, BIM respondents regard the principle with much reservation. They point out that an employer has either to make temporary employment arrangements or bear the cost

of training a new employee, and that pregnancy can be to some extent regarded as the choice of the individual.

Mr Prior's proposals, issued in a consultative paper in September, were that confirmation of intention to return to work should be increased from seven days to 28 days before the intended date of return.

Comments were also invited in suggestions that small companies should be given exemption from maternity provisions. The consultation showed that management is unanimously in agreement with the Government that the provision in Schedule II of the Employment Protection Act, which provides for general level of terms and conditions to be adjudicated by the Central Arbitration Committee, should be scrapped.

Mr Close advocates its repeal on the grounds that it is "inflationary, disruptive to differentials and the genuineness of productivity agreements and can undermine collective bargaining arrangements".

Statutory provisions relating to union recognition should also be repealed, the BIM says, and the settlement of disputes in this area left to voluntary action by ACAS.

Mr Close said doubts were expressed about the impartiality of ACAS under S(2) of the Act, which encouraged the extension of collective bargaining.

CWS to join talks on merging with retailers

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

The Co-operative Wholesale Society, which accounts for more than half the Co-operative movement's trading turnover, yesterday effectively agreed to join talks aimed at creating a single body to run the Co-op.

The CWS, which supplies the Co-op's retail societies and Co-operative Retail Services (CRS), the largest retailer in the movement, are being invited to meet the Co-operative Union—the movement's coordinating body—to consider the relevance of the proposals.

Speculation that the CWS might not favour proposals for the creation of a Co-op Great Britain had surrounded a meeting of the union's central executive in Manchester yesterday.

Mr Howard Perrow, Co-op's Union chairman and chief executive officer of the Greater Lancashire Society, first suggested the idea at the Co-operative Congress earlier this year. Mr Perrow has since said he thought the base of such an organization must be the Co-ops retailing.

He suggested that CRS, which had grown from helping societies in difficulties and had become noted for its efficiency, would be the logical base for a Co-op GB.

The question asked in the movement is whether the powerful CWS, led by Sir Arthur Sugden, would be happy to let all the reins slip even though Sir Arthur has urged the creation of a single national federation to counter the weaknesses which have confronted the Co-op in reversing its sliding share of high street trade.

Sir Arthur is due to retire in September next year and sentiment has been growing that the new chief executive should be selected from the ranks of established retailers, who might not be the movement. A special committee at CWS, whose governing board consists of representatives of the retail societies, will meet shortly to discuss the succession.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No 'ulterior motives' behind Venezuelan oil announcement

From Señor Francisco R. Parra

Sir, The article carried by your correspondent, Mr. Michael Frenchman (Continued over page 28) on Venezuelan oil reserves, is broadly speaking correct. However, I hope you will permit me to recapitulate the facts briefly and add some comments, which I trust will make the situation clearer.

(1) Current estimates of oil in place in the Orinoco petroleum belt vary between 700,000 million barrels and 3,000,000 million barrels. The wide range of these estimates is an indication of how speculative, at this stage, the figures are. The Venezuelan national oil company, Petroleros de Venezuela, has initiated an evaluation programme of the area which, in its first phase, at present being completed, includes the shooting of 4,000 kilometers of seismic lines, the drilling of wells, and a number of detailed technical studies.

(2) Estimated recoverability of the oil in place is often put at 10 per cent. The paper presented in Montreal by a subsidiary company of Petroleros de Venezuela, takes a highly speculative range of 10 per cent to 30 per cent recovery, and applied it to the low and high estimates of the oil in place, thereby coming to a range of 70,000 to 900,000 barrels of recoverable oil, and 500,000 as a mid-point.

The application of a speculative recovery factor to a speculative estimate of oil in place is merely an indication of even-

tual possibilities for the distant future, rather than a factor which could have significant impact on energy supplies during the 1980s. As has been remarked elsewhere, it is not the world's energy resources which are in short supply; it is time.

(3) The definition of "recoverable reserves" needs to be understood in the context of the effort required to produce them. Recoverable reserves in the giant oil fields of the Middle East are easily tapped and produced. In Venezuela, the national oil company is spending \$70m over the next three years merely in the planning and evaluation stage of the area. Only by 1985, and at a very high cost of between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000, will production of upgrading oil begin, and then only at a rate of 125,000 barrels a day (slightly processed after production to convert it into the equivalent of a good quality crude oil).

There may also be limited production of crude which will not be upgraded. By the end of the century, and after the expenditure of approximately \$20,000,000, it is hoped to raise capacity to one million barrels per day. This will be an important contribution to Venezuela's national economy but a relatively minor one in the context of the world's energy economy, which today consumes about 100 million barrels per day of oil equivalent of all forms of energy.

(4) It is true that the Orinoco petroleum belt has been known about for years. Its development has not so far been put

used because prices have been high enough to justify (although it may be noted some of the more easily accessible reserves on the flank of the belt have been developed to a capacity of about 100 barrels a day). In this, the belt is similar to the comparable huge quantities of oil in place in the Canadian sands and Colorado oil shed.

Unkind suggestions have been made in the press and elsewhere that Venezuela may have "ulterior motives" in announcing such reserves at this time—that it is an attempt to be the country's borrowing power in international money markets and/or strengthen its position in the forthcoming Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries conference in December.

While admitting the imaginative efforts of those making such suggestions, and being flattered by the implication to us of such Machiavellian skills, I hasten to say that the cause of the confusion is merely a routine technical paper at a specialized United Nations conference.

"Announcement" on Monday in Montreal, before the publication of the conference terms, came not from an official of Petroleros de Venezuela but from an over-enthusiastic United Nations official. Yours faithfully, FRANCISCO R. PARRA, Managing Director, Petroleros de Venezuela (UK) SA, 7 Old Park Lane, London, W1, November 28.

Joseph Swan's contribution to the electric lamp

From Professor Peter Kirby

Sir, We are coming to the end of the year which in many countries has been selected for the celebration of the centenary of the invention of the incandescent electric lamp. In this country, numerous activities took place earlier in the year and in the North-East of England I was privileged to chair a committee which arranged lectures, museum displays, and a series of theatrical performances relating to this significant invention which has so clearly benefited our lives in the civilized world.

Not surprisingly, we were anxious to draw attention to the fact that many of us, in carrying out our daily activities, owe a debt to the man who, on October 21 of this year, eight months after Swan's successful public demonstration, after Swan had used electric lamps in his own home in Greenhead, and at the time when the showman, Mr. William Armstrong was installing Swan's lamps in his home at Cragside in Northumberland.

Such an unbalanced and bigoted attitude surely detracts from the credit which is due to one of America's great inventors and this attitude seems unworthy of a nation which has contributed so much to advances in world technology and which could readily show a little intelligent generosity to contributions from other quarters.

Yours faithfully, PETER KIRBY, Chairman, Electric Lamp Centenary Committee, Newcastle upon Tyne, 14 Woodlands, Leazes Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Economic realism

From Mr. Julian Riddale, MP

For Essex, Harwich (Conservative)

Sir, According to David Blake's Economic Notebook (November 22) "The Chancellor is exactly what the Government ought to be spreading if they want their policy to work."

Why pessimism? The dictionary definition of that word is "doctrine that evil is more powerful than good" or "readiness to expect misfortune."

Mr. Blake alleges that Treasury Ministers have been warning the economic forecasters to produce "less gloomy figures". Whether that be true or not, Ministers can

scarcely be accused of trying to mislead the public about the potentially painful short-term effects of government policy.

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History of Government's BP holding

From Mr. Angus Acworth

Sir, The matter of the Government's holding of BP, which has become so befogged by political prejudice that it is well to clear the air, is a long one. Some 70 years ago the Royal Navy decided to switch from coal to oil, and Government of the day was prudent to secure supply and took a major interest in Anglo-Persian. Time marches on. The "navy" of 1914 is replaced by an array of destroyers, mine-sweepers, frigates and submarines which can readily be fuelled from the tanker. There is no longer any Anglo-Persian, oil has its interests in Iraq secured and renamed British Petroleum, an international oil company comparable with Shell.

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I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ANGUS ACWORTH, 47 Eaton Square, London, SW1W 9BD, November 28.

Cheques abroad

From Mr. Peter Over

Sir, I have been a victim of the French holiday costs from my country interests me.

From personal experience, I arrangement for payment by bank in this country (for which a minimum £2 charge is made) is unsatisfactory and can prove financially embarrassing.

Twice this year I have a occasion to pay in advance of French holiday accommodation; this method, on both occasions the cheque has been returned on arrival at the hotel and cash requested. It seems that reluctance to accept cash is a widespread phenomenon. I have been told that the French holiday costs from my country interests me.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Iran splits the bankers

ad news, for international bankers lay, is the growing schism between the United States and the Iranian States to freeze official Iranian assets. Yesterday's move by Morgan in West Germany to sequester shares in Krupp and Deutsche Babas a further sign of the edginess of whose loans to Iran are not covered by deposits.

Many some smaller United States banks are to Iran are as daggery drawn as the big New York money centre banks. The eventual share-out of Iranian assets in the event of a wholesale default, and Japanese banks are increasingly questioning the jurisdiction of United States over their overseas branches, where a large proportion of assets are thought to be held. Virtually a man these banks are antipathetic to the idea of declaring Iran in default and are thought to be a number of syndicates where the United States banks sided not to invoke the cross default triggered when Chase Manhattan decision on the \$500m Iranian loan.

question now is whether the international banking system can stand the strain of action that now seems likely to be taken. There are no signs yet of Opec being frightened away from the inter-capital markets but the future of the Eurocurrency loans could well be in the United States banks do not.

be moment though the good news is a straight Eurodollar bond market, signs of coming back to life after months of hibernation brought on by rising United States domestic rates.

have already been a number of rate note issues this week, though the market has been relatively buoyant throughout the summer of the limited protection it provides.

the European Coal and Steel Community is testing the appetite of the market for a \$100m seven-year issue, carrying a coupon which falls a point to 10 1/2 per cent in the final year. Eurobond investors have been caught out this year in early summer when United States interest rates had resulted in a glut of issues, a large number of which are still in the issuing portfolios; and there are still enough about the course of United States rates to make everyone cautious.

while, the authorities had relatively access with their latest offering of stock, in spite of the modest fall in United States prime rates and the dollar's value.

lock does, however, remain well in the market and its fate over the next few weeks presumably depends on the outcome of the miners' strike, the result of which should probably have a bearing on the weekend. Though the full figures will not be until the middle of next week, as United States interest rates are at the market is obviously encouraging, certainly not yet prepared to bet that rates have finally turned. It is still rife, as yesterday's price in the gold price served to.

I get ter

he outlook for durable goods is murky. Excellent full-year from Comet Radiovision will be an historic come. Nevertheless, set reacted to news of a 47 per cent increase to £9.2m, an 85 per cent hike and the promise of a one-script by lifting the shares 12p to 100p.

while, Comet, for its part, remains confident about prospects in the spite of the short-term uncertainty. It how pressure on spending could hamper durable sales.

the summer Budget boom, Comet experienced relatively quiet trading as depressed by the recent rise in rates and news of the forthcoming increases. It remains to be seen whether effect mortgage fears will have normally buoyant Christmas season, or claims to have seen a reasonably pick-up in November sales.

Importantly, Comet moves into 1980 with a strong balance sheet despite the £13m outflow on Caledonian Holdings and high hopes that the new DIY interests can compensate for any downturn on the durable side. Comet has made £6.3m write-off of goodwill on Caledonian which probably slipped in around £500,000 in the latest year.

Although DIY could be as vulnerable as electrical goods to a spending downturn next year, as competition intensifies, the Timberlands operations could be expected to contribute at least £1.5m to next year's total. This suggests that next year's out-turn will be similar to the latest result and would ensure Comet its status in a depressed sector.

The latest result represents a fully-taxed p/e ratio of just under 6 and a well-covered yield of 5.4 per cent. That suggests the shares are on the high side in front of what could be the most severe test yet for discount durable retailers like Comet.

Johnson Matthey

Higher precious metal prices

Johnson Matthey's figures are much as expected with profits at £11.5m for the half year about £2m more than for the same period of last year, largely reflecting higher gold, silver and especially platinum prices. But given such an obvious boost, is Johnson really doing so well?

Some parts of the company—platinum and chemicals for example—are vulnerable to the world recession. But its accounting is conservative and does not include paper gains on metals as income.

The company also stands to gain from the market for platinum in catalytic converters. Since all cars sold now in the United States need them, it matters little to Johnson Matthey that American-made cars are selling badly. The converters just go into imports instead—for example Volkswagen, with which a subsidiary is closely associated.

On the banking side, foreign exchange dealing proved particularly profitable and as a result of higher commissions from metal dealing—the bank's main business—and stock increases, the bank's net worth is now £30m.

At the closing price of 195p, up 5p on the day, Johnson yields 6.51 per cent. Even if one takes a very bullish view of metal prices, this seems a reasonable rating.

BPB Industries

Defensive qualities

Profits from its United Kingdom operations still provide over three-quarters of the total (before interest and the share of associates) at BPB Industries, but it was the overseas subsidiaries which pushed the half-time total up by 20 per cent to £21.23m pre-tax. In particular, the French subsidiary, maintaining the improvement shown in the second half of last year, produced trading profits some £1.75m higher than those for the corresponding period, more than offsetting the downturn in the Republic of Ireland, and the same-again loss in the Netherlands paper company.

In the United Kingdom, performance was steady enough, with volume sales of both plasterboard and paper holding up, and a reduction in the losses on wood chipboard to help offset the impact of higher costs on margins elsewhere. Trading profits of the United Kingdom building materials division emerged some 10 per cent higher at £11m, while those of the paper and packaging operations were ahead by almost as much at £4.6m.

In spite of the possibilities offered by both the DIY and home improvements markets, there must obviously be great doubts over BPB's capacity to maintain volume sales of plasterboard if the United Kingdom building industry is knocked for six by high interest and mortgage rates. However, the effects of past spending on efficiency, and present monopoly on the group's ability to check the damage a slump could do to a good profit record.

Anyway the dividend payment, well-nigh double at the interim, looks safe enough—and attractive, too: even on nothing better than a same-again payment for the second half, the yield at 156p will be almost seven per cent.

Economic notebook

Is the pound about to slide?

Something odd has been going on in the foreign exchange markets. Sterling is riding high again after its fall this autumn (although not as high as it was in midsummer).

Yet it seems to be buoyed up more by hot air than by any of the so-called "fundamentals" which are supposed to determine exchange rates.

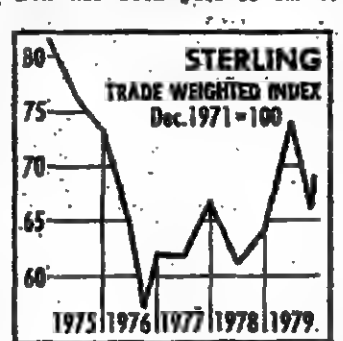
The Treasury is virtually alone among economic forecasters in assuming that the pound will remain stable during 1980. Some fall in the rate next year is almost certain. But it may not be heralded with the drama and banner headlines of previous collapses.

Sharp movements in exchange rates are no longer the big news that they were. The Government has managed, so far very successfully, to take the limelight off even quite large movements.

This is at least partly due to the apparent lack of any exchange rate policy and thus of official concern about sterling's day-to-day fortunes. It has been helped by the pound's relative strength throughout the year and growing confidence in sterling as a hard currency.

There are several reasons for supposing that this cannot last, even in the new era of the post-pandemic. And there is even some reason to believe that the Government may stop keeping its distance from the markets and start intervening to support the pound if it comes under serious pressure.

One supporting indication that the pound is over-valued is Britain's yawning payments deficit. Remarkably little attention has been paid so far to



the United Kingdom's poor trade performance this year and the prospect of little improvement. After a current account surplus of more than £1,000m in 1978, the Treasury expects the United Kingdom to be in deficit to the tune of £2,500m this year.

Last year the Treasury forecast a current account deficit of £2,000m for 1980. Admittedly this is worse than many private forecasters expect and is subject to enormous margins of error. But it is rare that the United Kingdom's trade performance turns out to be better than expected and it would have to be much better to wipe out the gap altogether.

The jump in Britain's EEC contributions and the steady growth in foreign-owned North Sea profits have turned 1978's invisible surplus of £2,200m into one of less than £500m this year, all of which was earned in the first three months.

For curbing this deterioration, however, is the benefit to the visible trade balance from North Sea oil. The latest official estimates almost certainly understate Britain's likely oil-rich next year and probably this year too.

Even so they show a net contribution to the current account of £7,200m this year and £6,800m next year (at constant 1978 prices). The figure for 1980 was lower because the real price of oil was then expected to fall next year.

There is some confusion about the role of North Sea oil in bolstering the pound. The presence of oil means that it is possible to balance Britain's payments with a higher exchange rate than otherwise.

In these days of oil-dominated foreign exchange markets it also means that sterling is likely to be as strong as the pound when currency inflows whenever there are fears of further oil price

risers or possible supply difficulties.

Longer-term funds from the oil rich Opec countries whose inevitable surpluses are now growing rapidly again are also more likely to be attracted to London because of North Sea oil.

But this does not mean that any value of the pound is sustainable regardless of Britain's current account position. Foreign exchange dealers still believe that currencies are influenced heavily, if sometimes belatedly, by countries' trade and current account balances.

Britain's inflation rate is now running at about 17 1/2 per cent. The Government predicts that this will come down by a few points next year, although there is little evidence to suggest more than a very slight deceleration.

Faster inflation coupled with a strong pound has led to a massive deterioration in British competitiveness of about 20 per cent over the last year. Export profitability has also fallen sharply.

These figures help to explain why, despite North Sea oil, Britain is deep in the red on the balance of payments. If the pound does not fall next year there will be a further erosion in competitiveness and recession notwithstanding.

Some of the reasons for poor trade performance. Currency markets must notice this sometime. Sterling also looks unjustifiably high when compared with money supply growth in Britain and overseas. The London Business School, which believes that relative money growth is an important determinant of exchange rate changes, has said its latest forecast for sterling is overvalued on this basis.

Record interest rates in London have combined with North Sea oil-based confidence in Britain to hold up the pound. Although high interest rates are likely to remain for some time, and will do their bit to bring in oil funds next year. But they could be a little tarnished if the risk of a capital depreciation on sterling holding interest rates (because of a fall in the rate).

Uncertainty always surrounds exchange rate predictions. There is even more than usual for sterling because of the recent abolition of exchange controls. Some private capital outflows from Britain must be expected as a result.

However, the Government's response to this may well be to try to insulate the pound from the effect of any outflows by setting off some of the reserves. This could be justified on the grounds that a switch from public to private sector holdings overseas is taking place.

In practice it would be difficult to distinguish between stock shifts of funds out of London because of exchange control abolition and other outflows.

It would be correspondingly hard for the Government to assert that it is still leaving sterling's level for the market to decide. Such a stock could be as large as £5,000m, spread over time. This compares with total reserves of £10,400m.

But supporting the pound out of the reserves would certainly ease problems of monetary control: more domestic credit expansion in Britain would be compatible with a given money target, as money from the reserves financed capital outflows.

The Government's attachment to a high rate for the pound has gradually become clearer. Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Trade, said 10 days ago that the sterling pound had been the reputation of this country abroad, reduced the sterling value of imports and would contribute to the fight against inflation.

The Government will be steadily tempted to intervene in currency markets when sterling begins to fall. Whether it is more successful in halting a fall than previous governments remains to be seen. But the government probably hopes that it will not be.

Caroline Atkinson

Taking the surgeon's knife to Germany's lame duck

After a decade in which state aid for Europe's ailing industries has become the norm rather than the exception, West Germany's banks are about to demonstrate that in the Federal Republic capitalism is alive and, if not exactly well, can at least tackle its own problems.

The supervisory board of AEG-Telefunken, West Germany's second largest electrical concern, meets next Monday to decide on a new rescue plan intended to put what has become a big lame duck in the country's postwar history back on the road to recovery.

The 20 industrialists, bankers and trade unionists making up the board will be asked to approve management proposals that will involve sacrifices at all levels in a final attempt to solve the problems that have dogged the once proud company for most of the past decade.

But one powerful interest will not be represented at the meeting. Largely at the insistence of the banks, and despite pleas from the unions, the state will not be taking part in the rescue.

This attempt to demonstrate that capitalism can cure its own ills will be costly both in money and in the terms of the number of jobs lost. The situation at AEG-Telefunken has become so serious that it is believed that only a substantial cash injection and radical surgery hold out any hope of recovery.

A quick glance at the company's figures for the past 10 years gives a good idea of what has gone wrong. The group last paid a dividend for 1973. Net assets since that year have fallen from DM3,350m to DM1,243m. Not surprisingly, AEG-Telefunken has paid net interest of DM2,289m to its creditors over the last 10 years.

The group's bankers and small shareholders are due to pay their tribute through a complex reconstruction of the group's capital that will be submitted for approval next Monday.

It is envisaged that shareholders will be asked to approve a reduction to a third in the nominal value of their holdings and he invited to participate in a doubling of the new reduced capital at a price of 300 per cent. The reduction in the company's normal share capital from DM3,350m to DM1,243m will help cover losses anticipated for this year. The move will mainly hit the 180,000 small shareholders who have remained remarkably loyal to the group through the vicissitudes of the past decade.

The banks, which have grown in importance as shareholders over the past few years, will

also be hit by the capital cut but their main contribution to the rescue will be to subscribe to the new shares so producing a cash injection of DM950m. This operation will leave scars in the bank's balance sheets as the new shares can hardly be valued at their subscription price of DM150 so long as the market values existing AEG shares at around DM37 as at present.

Carrying the biggest burden will be the Dresdner Bank, AEG-Telefunken's house bank, which is expected to subscribe to about 21 per cent of the new shares. Dr Hans Friedrichs, its chief executive, the former Bonn Economics Minister, is due to take over the supervisory board chairmanship of the group to see the rescue through.

The unions in their turn will be asked to approve large-scale dismissals affecting probably 13,000 workers next year. The dismissals will presumably be additional to natural wastage that has reduced the company's West German workforce to 128,600 by the middle of this year from around 132,000 at the end of 1978.

It is argued that with capital reconstruction and dismissals agreed the management will be

in a position to carry through a programme of rationalization and restructuring.

But the history of the group's decline offers little encouragement. AEG-Telefunken seems to have developed a "reverse Midas touch" over the past decade whereby almost everything it has touched has turned to loss.

The biggest drain on its finances was the nuclear sector where design and operating problems with its boiling water reactors led to losses of DM1,700m. Its excursion into large main frame computer making ended in failure. Even in traditional sectors such as electric light bulbs making the company incurred losses.

Accordingly it sold its holding in Osram, the light bulb company, to its larger rival Siemens, which now enjoys a handsome profit from the firm. AEG-Telefunken invented the Pal colour television system, but has been unable to prevent the brown goods sector becoming another headache for the company. Similarly, its white goods which are as ubiquitous in German kitchens contribute little in way of profit to the company.

Admittedly, the group has experienced a bad luck, starting with the loss of a greater part of its assets through the division of Germany after the last war and culminating in 1977 in the terrorist murder of Jürgen Ponto, who as supervisory board chairman had just begun the task of trying to turn the company round.

But over the years the management appears to have compounded the impact of bad luck by misjudging world economic developments. AEG-Telefunken's prosperity in the 1950s and 1960s was based very largely on the boom in the domestic consumer goods business which was neglected and apparently no thought was given to the possibility of the Deutsche mark one day ceasing to be a cheap currency. Thus at the end of the 1960s AEG-Telefunken was still investing in down market radio and record player factories which were soon to be exterminated through Far Eastern competition.

For more than two decades after the war AEG-Telefunken sought to expand at almost any price. Its capital resources became dangerously stretched. A company might survive but luck and even good management errors, but these two factors have combined with inadequate capitalization to bring one of the most important of German firms to the brink of collapse.

A bitter-sweet argument

Sugar will be the rallying point for the next battle about farm policy in the European Economic Community.

The EEC has a large surplus of sugar which it cannot afford to maintain. But Britain is refusing to accept responsibility for the surplus because it is by far the largest importer in Europe. It insists on trying to increase self-sufficiency and on buying supplies from outside Europe, which are often cheaper.

The sugar industry is not taking a unified stand on the issue. The two sides are the beet lobby, represented by the British Sugar Corporation and the National Farmers' Union, and the cane lobby, represented by Tate & Lyle and the Commonwealth Sugar Exporters' Association.

Beat has the whole hearted support of the British Government while cane is backed by the efforts of the European Commission to cut sugar quotas to EEC growers and to make the biggest cuts in Britain.

Beat is grown in parts of East and North-west England where the British Sugar Corporation has monopoly powers of purchase for processing in 17 factories.

British yields in the past three years have been lower than elsewhere in the Community. The corporation, despite spending £150m on factory improvements and

SUGAR SUPPLIES IN BRITAIN	% share
Origin	% share
England	48
Mauritius	19
Fiji	6
Guyana	5
Jamaica	5
Swaziland	5
Donna's	5
Others	10

encouraging farmers to grow more beet, has not yet fulfilled this country's EEC quota.

The most severe European critics of the British beet industry say that this country has no business to grow any beet. As a member of the EEC it should be content to buy from other Community countries, especially as it contains most of the refining capacity needed for the cane which the Community is obliged by treaty to import.

The corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food agreed some years ago to base their case on the allegedly low cost of producing sugar here. Factories are said to be capable of more efficient use in Britain and overheads like farm workers' wages are lower than in most other Community countries.

That case has survived the change of Government and is supported strongly by officials at the ministry, including Mr Brian Hayes, the Permanent Secretary. Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, said that the Commission's plan would cut the maximum British quota by 30 per cent and those in countries with sugar surpluses by 5 per cent. "If

they do table proposals on these lines, I shall reject them", he said.

The corporation claims that if EEC farm ministers accepted the plans in the next few months eight English sugar factories would have to close with the loss of 3,500 jobs. Mr John Backett, chief executive, said: "It is manifestly unfair to make Britain the scapegoat for Europe's sugar problem. The United Kingdom has sugar industry seeks to produce only half of Britain's needs. It produces no sugar surplus and does not add a penny to the cost of the common agricultural policy."

The cane farmers do not, of course, see it quite that way. Tate & Lyle, which has closed three of Britain's six cane refineries in the past three years, says that any further contraction of cane and supplies would put 100 jobs at its Liverpool refinery at risk.

"Subsidies on exporting the EEC surplus cost the Community's taxpayers about £30m a year," the company says. "The United Kingdom taxpayers' share of this burden is approaching 20 per cent." Tate & Lyle has given a general welcome to the plans by the EEC Commission to cut sugar production in the Community.

Since the company refines almost half of the sugar consumed in Britain and more than half of the total Community consumption, its stance will seriously weaken the case which Mr Walker will present in Brussels on behalf of British farmers and beet processors.

Hugh Clayton

Business Diary: Back pedalling? • Return to sender

obby representatives held by British Rail today whether Southern is to lift its threat of bicycles on its new trains which come into service on January 6. On the free travel concession for bicycles was originated by Southern in aid of the introduction of new tube-like sliding ladders. But strong pressure from the growing band of commuters led to the ion of British Rail. Sir Peter Parker and was lifted four days after a review of BR.

Sir Peter who gave his blessing to the free concession, commending it as a winning move for travellers on railways when it was first introduced two years ago. Last six months representatives of the 35,000-strong Touring Club, the of the Earth, and the of British Cycling have been jointly pressuring allow bicycles on the ns as well as better for cycles about the high speed trains.

BR conceded free of years ago we were. Now we see this concession threat," says CTC secretary Leslie Ware. Gullford-based on negotiating on behalf of first with the railways and now BR, at its 101 years of life.

I am indebted to Michael Corby for the following example of old world courtesy. Corby, director of the Mail Users' Association and author of *The Postal Business* 1969-70, sent a free copy of the book (price £11.50) to Denis Roberts, managing director of Posts.

Almost by return he received a missive from one J. M. Bindliff, personal assistant to Roberts, saying that the managing director Posts had asked him to return the book. "Mr Roberts considers the gift to be a perk he would rather forego."

It would, of course, be absurd to suggest that this has anything to do with the Mail Users' Association's recent broadside at the Post Office when it said that if postal management meant business about the organisation round it would be prepared to waive pay increase and forgo perks.

Refreshing honesty from David Livingstone, managing director of chemicals company Albright & Wilson, who like his elusive namesake spends a lot of time out of the country.

In this month's *Albright World* he answers staff criticisms of communications difficulties within the group. "I thought I had been doing my bit until my secretary, Maggie, said recently: 'Do you realize you have paid more visits this year to Toronto (where the company has an office) than you have to the second floor?'"



Albright and Wilson's David Livingstone: keeping in touch

Livingstone also makes frequent excursions from the third floor of his Knightsbridge office to visit Houston, Texas, where A & W's parent company Tenneco is based. He has promised to try harder with local contacts and asks his fellow workers to support Tenneco's confidence in the company, despite its recent poor performance, by doing the same.

The resignations last week of the entire National Enterprise Board led by its chairman Sir Leslie Murphy has created a gap which has yet to be filled. Although the Government was quick to produce a new team for the NEB, one of the consequences of the resignations is that next week's meeting of the National Economic

Development Council will be one member light.

Sir Leslie was also one of the independent office members of the NEB, an appointment within the gift of Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe. But since he has left the NEB his seat on the NEB falls vacant and it is by no means certain that his successor at the NEB, Sir Arthur Knight, will fill the gap.

Food manufacturers said yesterday that they and the National Farmers' Union had buried the hatchet over years of bitter argument about prices. But the secretary of the NFU was soon discredited when Derrick Hornby, who is retiring as president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, was asked about the latest claim by the NFU for price rises through a record devaluation of the green pound.

"I don't think that the farmers need it," he said. "They have done very nicely, thank you."

Hornby's successor will be James Clementson, the son of a chairman of Reckitt & Colman, who after more than 25 years with the company is now also its chairman. Relations between processors and farmers promise to be as bitter after Clementson takes over the federation leadership in January.

"Some farmers have very real problems," he said yesterday. "Others have not."

Robert Butler's success in coaxing lame ducks to waddle makes him an interesting candidate to take over the Marathon yard at Clydebank.

The yard formerly belonged to the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders and before that was John Brown's, birthplace of the QE2 and a noble line of famous ships.

Marathon, the American company, converted the site for oil rig construction but is now pulling out, leaving 1,000 jobs at risk.

Butler is a large, direct Londoner of 38, and started work as a journeyman in a shipyard. A radical shipbuilder, he is bidding to take over the yard in competition with Union Industrielle d'Entreprise of Cherbourg.

He believes he can repeat at Marathon the success he has had with Clyde Dock Engineering, the company he owns and which opened in the old dry docks at Govan in March, 1977. The first two years have seen turnover increase steeply and the workforce has grown to 200,000, with 100,000 workers striking in profits.

Soon after starting the company he was seconded to the Tyne Ship Repair group at the invitation of British Shipbuilders.

He says: "There's no reason why we shouldn't develop a specialization in every facet of offshore engineering once it becomes efficient and viable."

It's enough to make you weep. An organization called London Union, which is based on the American-based Eastern Union (it was going to be called Eastern Union but Western Union got a bit upset) started business last night at Legends night club.

If you are still with me you may by now have picked up the vital clues: London Union is that most vital necessity for a nation in decline—a singing telegram company. They were down at Legends serenading the launching of a new magazine.

The company claims that among the biggest business users of the service in the States are banks and insurance companies. Heaven forbid that my next bank statement comes accompanied by the strains of *Gottterdammerung*.

Jefferson Smurfit, Ireland's largest company, is experiencing a little local difficulty in America. Its subsidiary there is undergoing a major reorganization which has apparently necessitated a novel development in personnel management. The reorganization will involve, says a statement, "consolidation of some functions and the curbing of others, resulting in the early retirement or termination of employees." Sounds as if there might be a nice "contract" for someone.

Ross Davies

CHARTERHALL LIMITED

Extracts from the Statement of Mr. Derek G. Williams, Chairman of Charterhall Limited, the U.K. based independent oil and mineral group, to Members at the Annual General Meeting on 22nd November, 1979.

- The interest held in the Buchan Field is the most important aspect of the Company's present activities and will in the near future provide a substantial cash flow to the Charterhall Group.
- Development of the Buchan Field is nearing completion with production expected to commence in the first few months of 1980.
- The Board anticipates that dividend payments will commence in respect of the year ending 31st June, 1981.
- With the availability of the Buchan cash flow and the technical expertise that the Group has acquired in the oil industry, the Board will continue to extend its U.K. offshore interests including the exploration of prospects on the remainder of the 2,241 sq. miles outside the Buchan Area and also in respect of its Licence in the South Western Approaches, and to seek participations in new areas mainly by application in subsequent rounds of U.K. Offshore Licensing.
- Drilling should commence in the first quarter of 1980 on four of the Canadian Subsidiary's oil and gas prospects in Western Canada.
- At Mt. Keith in Western Australia a further core drilling programme is currently in progress.
- The coming year will see much activity on the Group's interests in the North Sea, Australia and North America and the Board looks forward to the further growth of the Company.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Charterhall Limited, Sutherland House, Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5BA.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities marked up while gilts look for a lead

edged spent yesterday for a lead and waiting miners to provide one was a small amount of ng but the impression descriptions for the latest stock from the Government, the £1,000 of 14 per cent 1981-2001 and £100m to £150m, ed proceeding.

Christmas sales season for the looking winter 79's. The VAT increase has been a thing of the past, s discounts such as are presumed to be the business there is, res rested at 167 per cent. The 1979 'high' was

the authorities' crisis and with only £20 of these prices immediately. On December 5 the second due. The buying of trading, gilts edged rougher the list, as in 10 per cent 1983, down £1.16 and Treasuries 2012-15 £604.

quities, on went the re-Christmas rally, with doing all the work of up prices, with hardly in sight. The FT index ed 5.3 up to 10 and close it was 4.4 ahead

r modest gains were among leading indus-

trials, but the underlying trend remained weak. Glaxo once again led the way on investment, after an earlier rise to 31p, after earlier touching 31p, while Pilkington Bros, reporting next week, rose 7p to 24p, and Muller advanced 6p to 42p. ICI increased 3p to 35p and gains of 2p were notched up in Bechem at 123p and Rank Organisation at 184p. But Fison and Comdiant both remained unchanged at 232p and 80p.

Oil shares finished easier after a third quarter figures, today where the shares, slipped 2p to 37p, and the new remained unchanged at 172p. Ultramar dipped 6p to 39p while other shares including 7p control 4p down to 27p and Shell 2p lower at 34p.

North Sea shares finished mixed with Oil Exploration holding its recent slide by putting on 8p to 65p while Lamsun gained 10p to 35p. Elsewhere National Carbonising increased 6p to 122p and International Thomson were 3p better at 387p, but Cawoods dipped by the same amount to 19p.

Gilts were active following the rise in the Bullion price and the Gold shares index leapt 13 points to 228.9. Consolidated Gold Fields were active, aided by continued rumors of a takeover, and jumped 17p to 350p, and President Brand were 2.1 stronger at £28. Anglo American Gold rose £14 to £59 as St Helena advanced £150 to £26.

News of a counter-bid from Britannia Arrow, unchanged at 191p, for Daimler Day enabled the shares to expand 18p to 65p following its return from suspension. This leaves the shares 4p higher than the bid received from Rothchild Investment Trust which rose 4p to 243p.

Meanwhile, shares of Geo Sandeman remained unchanged at 146p following the agreed bid from the Canadian distiller Seagram. There were 12p higher at 316p while KMI firmed a penny to 134p. GEC advanced 4p to 338p but Avery were unchanged at 261p.

Adverse comment on its appeal for the return of its gaming license at the High Court earlier at 143p and Coral Leisure—where one of the directors has been charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice—gave up 2p to 62p. In a thin market, Saatchi & Saatchi put on 8p to 122p and Tunnel Holdings were wanted ahead of today's (Thursday) figures, rising likewise to 286p.

Among companies reporting, B. Elliott advanced 15p to 213p, after a 23 per cent rise in first half profits and BFB, with figures in line with most expectations rose 8p to 156p. Satisfactory figures from Hick-

ing Pentecost lifted the shares 2p to 107p but Avon Rubber were a penny easier at 138p.

Shares of Wallis Fashion were suspended at 38p on reports that somebody was about to make a bid. Among those Up a further 3p to 168p went S. & W. Berisford the trader in commodities, especially sugar. This makes a 9p gain in two days. Bid gossip prompted the latest rise, and a recovery after the fall on the recent Gill & Duffus figures also played a part. Annual figures, due in

renounced to be interested were UDS a penny firmer at 72p and Raybeck unchanged at 73p. Burton Group were also in demand rising 16p in the ordinary and the "A" advancing 6p to 120p. After a 23 per cent rise, Debenhams continued to gain ground on the rumors of its sale of the Harvey Nicholls rising a penny to 65p.

In electricals, Muirhead's announcement that it had postponed announcement of its results—due today—until January resulted in a 5p fall to 255p. But Drenaland were wanted, 7p up at 54p, on speculative demand in a thin market. Office and Electronic were also speculative rising 3p to 218p and Comet Radio increased 12p to 140p helped by a 50 per cent increase in pre-tax profits.

The four major clearing banks showed small gains but were off their best at the close. Barclays 4p up at 40p and Lloyds 3p better at 278p. National Westminster and Midland both increased by 1p to 326p.

Equity turnover on November 27, was £80,417m (10,677 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, Lamsun, ICI, New Oil Exploration, Shell, Marks & Spencer, GEC, Consolidated Gold Field, BP, Boots, Beecham, P and O, BAT and Distillers.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	date
Avon (F)	150.5 (119.8)	2.55 (4.41)	—	6.35 (6.35)	21.1	10.35 (—)
Buckley's Brew (I)	4.05 (3.71)	0.49 (0.65)	—	0.70 (0.60)	4/1	—
Beck's Brew (I)	1.0 (0.8)	0.1 (0.1)	—	—	—	—
Brayley (I)	2.1 (5.4)	0.2 (0.2)	—	—	—	—
Bird's & Doolley (I)	13.8 (12.2)	1.05 (1.1)	—	0.95 (0.85)	8/1	2.7 (5.7)
Cardfield Rm (F)	15.1 (17.1)	3.6 (2.25)	1.9 (1.933)	1.9 (1.9)	19/1	3.0 (3.33)
Geers Bros (I)	15.1 (12.2)	0.2 (0.1)	1.1 (1.1)	1.1 (1.1)	17/1	—
Granston TV (I)	2.2 (2.0)	0.03 (0.19)	—	0.53 (0.5)	—	—
Gen Stock in Tr (F)	—	0.08 (0.46)	3.86 (2.9)	1.90 (2.3)	34/1	3.7 (2.3)
Hickling Pentecost (I)	15.1 (11.1)	1.5 (1.1)	1.5 (1.1)	1.5 (1.1)	—	—
Killinghall Rm (F)	0.14 (0.13)	0.02 (0.02)	12.31 (16.41)	10.5 (8.0)	10/1	1.6 (5.10)
M Brown (F)	22.9 (20.0)	4.1 (3.5)	15.82 (11.53)	3.82 (3.27)	—	5.0 (4.37)
Merch Invest Tr (I)	—	1.38 (1.27)	1.38 (1.27)	1.0 (0.6)	—	—
Midland Rm (I)	17.1 (14.3)	2.2 (1.4)	2.2 (1.4)	2.2 (1.4)	—	—
Renwick (I)	35.0 (29.0)	1.25 (0.96)	—	1.5 (1.0)	4/2	—
Shaw & Harris (I)	0.93 (0.88)	0.04 (0.04)	10 (0.33)	—	—	—
S & U Stores (I)	—	37.2 (30.7)	37.2 (30.7)	—	—	—
W. Ribbles (F)	18.02 (14.78)	0.39 (0.34)	4.85 (3.47)	1.0 (0.5)	—	1.0 (3.3)
Westwick (I)	7.6 (5.43)	0.39 (0.34)	5.74 (5.3)	1.5 (1.25)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax at 20 per cent per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To enable the best dividend by 1.42p. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Excludes special dividend, b Loss.

Gold shares up

But he also warned shareholders against "crazing acquisition". The popular assumption in the market is that the buyers are African mining houses interested in Gold Fields of South Africa, in which Cons Gold has a 46 per cent stake.

The apparent pattern is that after a bout of buying the share price is allowed to fall back before the buyers move into the market again. A senior Cons Gold director, yesterday, described the operation as "very clever".

Trust has confirmed that its £163m (about 17p today) to 1979 for the year which he compares at £520m. The options market in the gold shares has been a lot less active than the gold share market.

Box

Nov 28—CSR Ltd it is now ended to cent of Thiess Holdings capital of 65.49m 50p shares. As a result now 18.1 per cent of Thiess Holdings is owned by CSR Ltd.

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Renwick sees hard year ahead

Fears that 20 per cent interest rates will limit demand for high consumer spending in Britain cast a long shadow of gloom over otherwise sparkling interim figures at Renwick yesterday.

The group, which sells cars, buses, holiday homes and is anticipating a difficult year ahead and managing director Mr Kenneth Holmes admitted that he has shelved expansion plans and provided a bad provision for one of his divisions.

In the six months to September 29, 1979 turnover

climbed from £25m to £35m, with profits rising from £1.25m to £1.25m. If the improvement continues, profit for the year could amount to £2.25m against £1.5m, previously.

The contribution from 50 per cent owned Western Pacific, which benefited from the harsh winter and subsequent summer restocking—amounted to £132,000, against a previous £2,000. The loss-making freight division continues to languish in the red and Mr Holmes sees little chance of a recovery within the next 12 months. In-

dustrial trouble in the engineering industry and a weak group DCL rocked it badly in the second quarter and losses for the year could amount to £250,000.

There are also worries that the industrial downturn could cause problems for the group's customers and a bad debt reserve has been set up.

Borrowings are down to around £2.75m but the reduction has been offset by the increase in interest rates. For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 2.14p against a previous 1.49p.

Thiess Trust calls off its bid for Barber Oil group

Trust has confirmed that its £163m (about 17p today) to 1979 for the year which he compares at £520m. The options market in the gold shares has been a lot less active than the gold share market.

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Options

Expiry day passed fairly quietly on the options market, although some business was completed in GEC and Consolidated Gold Fields following yesterday's hike in the bullion price. Total contracts amounted to 1,193 compared with the previous day's figure of 423. The new August, 1980 options series, starting today, will consist of Boots 140p and 160p, Jomps 70p and 80p, and RITZ 280p, 300p and 320p. Consideration of an EMI August series will be made later once the current bid situation with Thorn has been clarified.

Traditional option remained subdued

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Litton Inds 72 pc up

Litton Industries raised its earnings in its first quarter ending on October 31 by 72 per cent to a record \$55.6m (£25.7m). Sales were \$953m (£494m) in the same period of last year. Earnings include a favourable currency translation of \$4.7m.

The company is a major United States producer of high technology engineering and electronic products for consumer and defence markets. It currently has a \$1.64bn contract to initial a communications system in Saudi Arabia.

The first quarter results bear out the optimistic comments of Mr Charles B. Thornton, the chairman, in his annual report. Mr Thornton points out that Litton's order backlog now

Hewlett-Packard

Palo Alto, California—Hewlett-Packard will probably not be able to sustain the 73 per cent rate of growth in shipments of the past two years despite a generally favourable outlook for the year ending October 31, 1979. But shares in London, which have experienced "very rapid growth".

Hewlett said in reporting an 8 per cent increase in fourth quarter net income to \$56.0m (£25.8m) that results were "impaired by greater-than-expected increases in material costs and premium prices paid for components in short supply".

Reuter.

Pitney Bowes

Pitney Bowes Inc expects its 1979 profits to grow to be roughly

Royal Bank Canada

The Royal Bank of Canada's earnings per share for the year ended October 31 was \$7.40, representing an after-tax balance of revenue of \$270.7m, an increase of 16 per cent over the \$58.3 a

Really Dry Gin



§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system; and are the best prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 leading stocks, are being reviewed and re-calculated to cover the period of non-publication.

£6,000 plus Appointments

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- (a) Preparation of monthly management information reports and cash flow budgets.
- (b) Interpreting the above, and advising the director.
- (c) Project costing and accounting, involvement in the financial aspects of contract negotiation.
- (d) Liaison with our own, and our clients' auditors.
- (e) Advising on the construction of a suite of Accounting programs.

The ideal candidate will have, in addition to his or her Accounting qualifications, a degree, and some experience. He or she should refresh the prospect of working in an informal atmosphere among bright and enterprising people, and where individual initiative is encouraged and appreciated.

We expect our Accountant to have drive and flair to be able to grow with the Company.

A starting salary of £9,000 is envisaged.

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A large British Company requires 10 people to commence work in January 1980. Previous experience for essential. Full training given.

For a permanent career opportunity contact, for London, Mr Robinson 01-236 8174; For Manchester, Mr Worthington 061-533 0471; For Reading, Mr Satchell 0734 58584.

Appointments Vacant

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MUSEUM, GREENWICH**

There are vacancies in the Department of Conservation for:

RESTORER GRADE I, £6,470 - £9,850

... to be responsible for the training of students under a four-year Fine Art conservation training scheme and for the cleaning, restoration, and consolidation (including work in-situ) of all types of paintings in a national collection of marine art and historical portraits. The work involves the examination of paintings using modern scientific methods, research, and the training and supervision of supporting staff.

Candidates (aged at least 28) must have at least seven years' experience using modern techniques, comprehensive knowledge of the history of art, and practical experience in drawing and painting.

RESTORER GRADE II, £5,500 - £6,510

... to work in a newly appointed Studio in the Prints and Drawings Section which is responsible for the restoration, conservation, care and maintenance of the Museum's various kinds of paintings, and prints and drawings. Opportunities for research.

Candidates (aged at least 25) must have at least four years' relevant experience, a good knowledge of art history, and practical experience in painting, printing and drawing methods and materials. They should be familiar with modern techniques.

For both posts good colour vision is essential and all candidates should normally have a relevant qualification awarded by a recognized College of Art. Men and women may apply.

Starting salary may be above the minimum of the appropriate range. *Salaries under review.* Non-contributory

pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by December 31, 1979) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Easingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). *Please quote reference G/5182.*

BUTTERWORTHS

SUB-EDITOR

TAXATION, ACCOUNTANCY, BUSINESS BOOKS

Butterworths, leading publishers of law and business books, periodicals and encyclopaedias needs someone to join the editorial department responsible for law and related publications - to take part in the future development of the department's activities. Some knowledge and experience of law and/or related law is essential, as is a determination to succeed. Previous publishing experience would be an advantage.

Please send applications in writing, together with a curriculum vitae and salary requirement, to:

Personnel Department, Butterworths and Co. (Publishers)
Ltd., 88 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AB

GENERAL VACANCIES	GENERAL VACANCIES
<p>Amnesty International</p> <p>seeks</p>	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</p> <p>Graduate</p> <p>The Royal Institution Chartered Surveyors require an Administrative Assistant. Applicants should be 25</p>

MEDICAL ADVISER

for 4-month period to work in their London-based International Secretariat.

THE MEDICAL ADVISER will form part of a team working closely with the Education Department and with Amnesty International medical groups in 20 countries.

years of age and have a home secretary's training after leaving university. This is an interesting appointment with the Education Department as it involves attendance at meetings, writing papers and interviews and liaison with other organizations. Salary: £4,100.

Application form and full details from Personnel Office HCS, 12 Great George Street, Portland Square, London.

Medical qualifications essential; some experience of psychiatric work, and work with prisoners or refugees an advantage. Some administrative experience desirable.

Salary \$5,932.50 (pro rata) per annum.

For further details and an application form, please contact the Personnel Office, Annexe in the Hospital.

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A BETTER CAREER can be achieved if you know what to look for and what suits you best. Our assessment gives you a sense of direction and expert advice on what to do next. Free brochure. Career Analysis, 50 Gloucester Place, W.1. 01-935 5462 (24 hours).

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Bookbinders and Court Stationers
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We have the following full vacancies in our **PERSONAL** Stationery Department, which are open in the line of customer orders for **disambiguation, printing and appropriate work.**

DEPARTMENT MANAGER

We are looking for someone, preferably with experience of this kind of work, but would be prepared to consider an applicant with some knowledge of the traffic of critical work generally. Salary up to 2,000 p.a. according to experience.

FULL-TIME SALES AND CLERICAL ASSISTANTS

These positions cover the taking of the individual orders in the shop from customer, and also the **servicing of the same in the office.** Salary up to 1,500 p.a. according to experience.

PART-TIME CLERICAL ASSISTANT

We have one vacancy in this position, to work 4-1 Monday to Friday inclusive on the servicing side, occasionally also helping in the shop. Salary up to 1,200 p.a. according to experience.

For all the above positions we give full training. Excellent benefits and staff discounts arrangements. The following most popular companies are listed: **Smith & Son.**

Please telephone Mr. Pemberton or Mr. Kerfak: 01-235 2128.
These vacancies are open to male and female.

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Recruitment Consultant

Windsor & St Albans

We are a long established, successful recruitment consultancy and can offer exciting prospects to candidates who are sought for our Windsor and St Albans offices. The right people, 25-30, who have worked in their accounts, engineering or data processing and have obtained some qualification. Previous recruitment experience would be an advantage. The primary responsibility is to recruit, interview, recommend, cover hundred people having the ability to contribute to the office.

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Further details available from the Personnel Officer, National Rural Community Council, Mansfield, Notts. or from the Regional Director, Northampton NRC, 200, Northampton Road, Northampton, where completed applications should be submitted by 15th December, 1978.

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01-837 3311

Property

Have a flat in a country mansion

Those who would like to live in country surroundings—or at least in a small country town but find the prospect of coping with a complete house and garden a little daunting—are often attracted to small flats in larger converted houses. Apart from reduced maintenance costs, such properties are often more luxurious than a small cottage with the same space and are less isolated.

Although a lot of conversion work has been going on in recent years, these properties are not common in the market, but occasionally they become available.

Two are for sale in the mews courtyard of Idsworth

House, a large Victorian mansion built about 1870, at Idsworth, near Hornedon, Hampshire. One has an entrance hall, a large sitting room and a combined kitchen and dining room downstairs, and two bedrooms. It has been modernized and is available at £39,950.

The other is similar but larger, with two reception rooms, three bedrooms and extensive cellars. This is available either unmodernized at £35,000, or modernized at £49,500. Both flats have the use of part of the gardens of Idsworth house at an annual maintenance cost of £125. The agents are Weller Eggar, Petersfield.

An example of the same kind of property is provided by a flat in Mulberry House, Fordingbridge, also in Hampshire; a fine Georgian vicarage which was converted into four flats in 1975.

Although a first-floor flat, it includes an imposing ground floor entrance hall, which was the original main entrance of the building. There is a large living room more than 30ft long, and

two bedrooms. On the second floor are three attic rooms which could be converted into bedrooms. Here, too, there is the use of gardens, the upkeep of which, with other maintenance, is shared with other flat owners. A price of £32,500 is being asked for a lease of just over 195 years at a ground rent of £40 a year. The agents are Pearsons, Salisbury.

The Basingstoke office of the same agents is dealing with the sale of an interesting country house known as Webb's Farmhouse at Mapledurwell, also in Hampshire. Thought to date from about 1550, with later additions, it has rendered walls and a tiled roof and is notable for unusually good ceiling heights for its period.



Webb's Farmhouse, Mapledurwell, Hampshire, for sale at about £115,000.

£115,000 are being asked.

The Old House, Langham, near Colchester, Essex, is believed to date from Elizabethan times. It is built of lath and plaster, rendered and painted white, under a peg-tiled roof. It was formed from two cottages 13 years ago.

Among the more notable features are many exposed timbers and a galleried reception hall with some original decorated plaster panels. Both the main reception rooms have inglenooks.

Besides this, there are four bedrooms, a study, a small sitting room and two bathrooms. Gardens and grounds run to about seven acres, much of which is a fenced paddock, and there is a swimming pool and changing room. The property is for sale at about £110,000 through Abbotts, Colchester.

much in the luxury class. This is a fine Georgian manor house with all the spaciousness of its period. The accommodation includes four main reception rooms, a study, two main bedrooms, three secondary bedrooms.

The gardens are floodlit from control panels on the ground and first floors, and the greater part of the ground floor is wired for stereo. Included in this link-up is the swimming pool area which also has changing rooms and a sauna.

Outbuildings include seven loose boxes and a modern barn. The total area of the property is about 10 acres, in which there are three railed paddocks. Offers in the region of £230,000 are being asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, Gloucester.

More realistic for the average buyer is Lower Farmhouse, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, a nineteenth century farmhouse standing amid miles of open farmland and from which only one other house is in sight.

It has a combined conservatory and entrance hall, two main reception rooms, a

breakfast room and four bedrooms. The house is in about three quarters of an acre of simple garden, rough grass and a small orchard is for sale at about £70 through Savills, of London.

Extensive accommodation is provided by Nuto House, Hindhead, Surrey. Edwardian country house which looks over Nuthurst land. It is built of stone and has a pebble rendering and has reception rooms, a study, sitting room and bedrooms. There is a contained flat on two floors with its own kitchen, bathroom, a sitting room and two bedrooms.

A feature of the garden is a terrace of York stone to the south and east of house, with a brick retaining wall. The garden contains a number of trees such as Douglas fir, Scots pine, magnolia, with an azalea walk. In all, the property, just under four acres, is priced at more than £95, and the agents are Messrs Baverstons, Haslemere.

Gerald I

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